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# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 2, 2014

North & West Edition No 632

**MILITARY »**

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**ENVIRONMENT »**

## Fresh fears over fracking

Campaign group reignites water risk debate

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## Remember, remember the old 5th of November?

ONCE upon a time, November 5 meant two things.

Firstly, the weeks leading up to it would involve that glorious youthful past-time of helping build a rather large bonfire in your back garden.

Once that was well under way, the equally thrilling part of making a Guy to sit on top of it began. My father's wardrobe was raided and before he could say 'hang on a minute, I still wear that' shirts and trousers were being stuffed with crisp, dry newspaper.

Come the big day itself – or at least the nearest available weekend – and a big family party was thrown, garnished with several boxes of colourful, exotic sounding Standard fireworks, and enough baked potatoes for everyone to suffer a carbohydrate overdose.

But, like so many things, the need to eradicate risk has seen the

family firework party become a rarity rather than the norm. And while it's quite understandable, it is also rather a shame. Granted, the fireworks were almost, without exception, nothing like the drama the wrapper promised, and perhaps it was the frisson of danger which added to the excitement, but the trudging into the back garden to ooh and aah was one upon which plenty of childhood memories hang.

Talking of childhood memories, inside this week's paper, inbetween two weekends of exciting FA Cup action, we look at some of the grounds in the county which were once a place of pilgrimage...and are now either shops or houses.

You shouldn't resist progress or resent change as it's the way of the world. But, every once in a while, there's no harm in a deep wallow in nostalgia. Enjoy your weekend.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

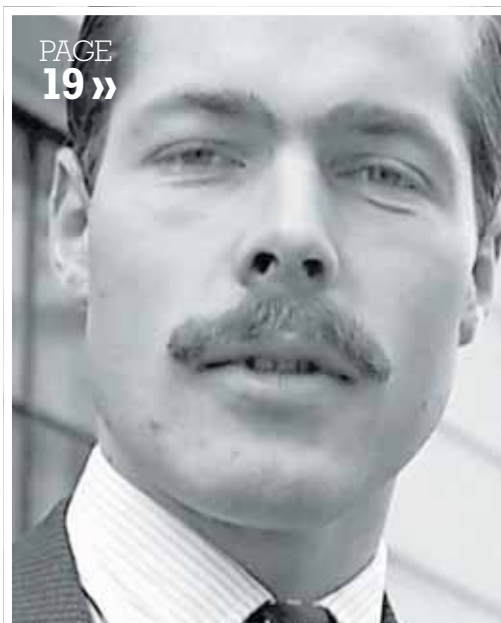
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## Promise of 1,250 jobs in ambitious port proposal

By Maria Chiorando

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PLANS to establish a rail freight link between the Port of Sheerness and Liverpool to transport bulk numbers of vehicles, could create 1,250 new jobs and gross added value (GVA) of £156million by 2034, according to a master plan by operators Peel Ports.

Peel Ports is a port operating group, who own and operate sites in Liverpool, Manchester, Medway, Glasgow and Belfast, as well as Sheerness.

Its master plan, revealed on Friday, sets out the physical improvements needed at the port over the next 20 years, as well as detailing how these improvements would result in increased socio-economic benefits for the region.

And they form the backbone of a series of consultation events taking place this month giving the public the chance to discuss the long-term expansion plans.

Any enhancement of the industrial offering on the island will be welcomed in a bid to boost employment opportunities on Sheppey - which has been hit by a series of devastating blows, among



**EXPANSION:** Investment could mean a major employment boost at the Port of Sheerness

them the closure of Thamesteel in 2012 which saw the loss of some 350 skilled engineering jobs.

Miles Hearn, port director, said: "The production of the master plan is important, as it reflects Peel Ports' long-term ambition to remain a key employer and driver for sustainable growth in the Swale region.

"That is why we want to involve the public in shaping these plans. Public consultation events are an opportunity to engage with the local community and answer any

questions they may have about the master plan. It is also a chance to hear their feedback and we welcome any contributions to the future of the Port of Sheerness."

MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, Gordon Henderson, added: "I am glad Peel Ports are still looking to engage with the renewable energy sector and I urge local residents and business people to get along to their exhibitions and have their say."

The port currently supports 660

jobs across a range of sectors including marine and waterside operations, cargo handling, business management and administration.

The public consultations take place at the Sheppey Gateway in Sheerness High Street on November 13, 14, 15 and at Eastchurch Village Hall on November 14.

For details see the website: [www.peelports.com/sheerness-master-plan](http://www.peelports.com/sheerness-master-plan).

## Rural crime team goes live in bid to make our countryside a safer place

THE latest initiative to crackdown on crime in our rural communities was launched this week.

The Rural Task Force was introduced by the Chief Constable Alan Pughsley, Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes and Michael Bax, chairman of the crime rural action group, at the Kent Rural Crime Conference on Wednesday.

It brings together officers from the gypsy liaison team and the award-winning rural liaison team into one coordinated unit.

It forms a key part of the police's new rural crime strategy.

The new unit will be focused on directly targeting those who cause harm to rural communities and responding to the concerns of locals.

Officers will be joined by specialists in such areas as wildlife crime.

Police chief constable Alan Pughsley said: "By forming the Rural Task Force we are making the best use of our resources in a dedicated unit so we can effectively tackle rural crime and antisocial behaviour.

"The new task force will work alongside members of the rural community, partner agencies, the National Farmers' Union, the Country Land and Business Association and other stakeholders as well as build on the great achievements by the rural liaison team and the gypsy liaison team.

"I'm pleased to be launching it and we look forward to seeing its many successes."

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Ann Barnes, added: "Like many people in Kent I live in a rural community - and - like many people in Kent I know that the countryside can be both idyllic and also quite isolating and daunting.

"The officers have already made great inroads into working with the rural community and we are seeing excellent results that they are able to achieve as a team."

For the concluding part of our reader Q&A with Ann Barnes - where readers had the chance to quiz her on any issue - turn to page 14.

## Sonic boom as RAF jets fly in to escort Latvian aircraft

THOUSANDS were left stunned after hearing a huge explosion ring out across swathes of west Kent on Wednesday afternoon.

But with emergency services reporting no incidents, it was left to the RAF to explain the noise was the result of two of its fighter jets creating a sonic boom as they went to intercept a Latvian cargo plane which had appeared to have lost contact with air traffic controllers.

It had sparked an alarm, with the jets told to escort it to Stanstead or, if a threat, shoot it down.

However, the Typhoon jets, sent from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, discovered it was due to confusion over airspace jurisdiction, and safely escorted it to the Essex airport.

There were reports the boom could be heard from Tunbridge Wells to Faversham.

## Protect your pets as rockets rise for firework celebrations

PET owners have been advised to protect their animals from being frightened by the pops and cracks of fireworks.

The RSPCA says it is advising owners to help their pets feel safe by using pheromone diffusers that can help dogs and cats feel calmer, providing constant access to safe hiding places or closing windows and curtains and using the TV to

mask the sounds from outside. An estimated 45 per cent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks.

A spokesman said: "Firework phobia is a treatable condition, pets do not have to suffer in misery every year."

For a list of public firework displays taking place this week, see the guide on our website [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk).



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## Work begins on mining fresh future at colliery

THE transformation of a former colliery into a £40million sustainable business park took another step forward this week.

On Thursday, dignitaries attended the site of the former Betteshanger Colliery to witness the first sod of ground being turned on an ambitious project.

The Betteshanger Sustainable Parks scheme aims to ultimately create 1,000 new jobs in the area with a blend

of business and commerce, tourism and sustainable energy. It is being spearheaded by Hadlow College.

Dover District Council also confirmed at the event, it was looking to have the site included in the existing enterprise zone thrown up around the Discovery Park in Sandwich - site of the former Pfizer offices.

If all goes to plan, the first phase of the project should be complete by 2016.



**STREETS:** William Hague in Medway

## MPs meet ministers in a bid to secure county 'vital' flood defence funding

**By Chris Britcher**

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TOP level talks in the corridors of power at Westminster have continued in a bid to secure significant Government funding for flood defences.

It comes amid expectations funding decisions for major flood defence projects will be published in chancellor George Osborne's autumn statement.

That is due on December 3 - just a month away.

Concerns are mounting to ensure no repeat of the floods last Christmas which caused such devastation to areas across the county - in particular, between Maidstone and Tonbridge. Once again, the village of Yalding was badly hit, with homes having to be evacuated over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Conservative MP for Maidstone and the Weald, Helen Grant, met with the chancellor last week and pressed the case for capital funding of local flood infrastructure projects.



**PRESSURE:** MPs Truss and Grant

And on Wednesday, she joined forces with Tonbridge MP Sir John Stanley for a meeting with the secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs, Liz Truss.

Both constituencies urgently need

Government agreement to the bid submitted by the Environment Agency to increase the capacity of the Leigh Flood storage area and create a new flood storage area on the lower reaches of the River Beult.

Speaking after her meeting, Mrs Grant said: "I am delighted the secretary of state and the chancellor are fully aware of our partnership. It is vital that we secure funding for the proposed flood defence schemes to protect our vulnerable communities."

"I was able to present Liz Truss with our updated nine point action plan and I hope this evidence of our coordinated effort will persuade her to grant funding for these crucial capital projects for Kent."

Sir John Stanley added: "It is essential that the Government gives the go-ahead in the autumn statement on December 3 for the increased capacity at the storage schemes."

"We are exerting all possible pressure on the relevant cabinet ministers to giving the green light to these crucially important schemes."

## By-election: Hague joins campaign trail

WILLIAM Hague was the latest big name politician to descend on the streets of Medway this week in a bid to help the Conservative Party retain the Rochester & Strood seat.

Mark Reckless' decision to quit the Tories to join Ukip, and force a by-election, has prompted a flurry of big hitters to take to the campaign trail to prevent him being re-elected under new colours.

If he wins, he becomes Kent's very first Ukip MP.

Prime minister David Cameron and Labour leader Ed Miliband have already both made visits.

Mr Hague, the former party leader and foreign secretary, was invited to tour the area to meet residents and businesses by Kelly Tolhurst, the Tory candidate in the constituency.

Mr Hague said: "From my visit to Chatham High Street I could tell business is on the up in the town with a great mixture of independent and chain shops all bustling."

"This Government has overseen record levels of employment with more people enjoying the security of a regular pay packet which is good news for both employers and shoppers."

The by-election - which according to opinion polls Ukip currently leads - takes place on November 20.

## Sex abuser of four girls gets prison term

A BROADSTAIRS man who sexually abused four young girls has been jailed for 17 years.

Gary Rolph, 55 from Prince Charles Road, Broadstairs subjected his victims to threats if they did not do what he wanted.

Rolph was arrested at his home address on March 23 and was later charged with attempted rape and sexual assault.

Rolph admitted the charges when he appeared at Canterbury Crown Court the day before his trial was due to start earlier this month. He was then sentenced to 17 years in prison on Wednesday.

Detective constable Paul Deslandes from the police's public protection department said: "Rolph's actions have had an acute impact on his victims and their families and they are still trying to put their ordeal behind them."

"He has deeply affected other people's lives and ruined his own through his behaviour."

"We would like to praise the bravery of the victims."

## Father of tragic Sarah Payne is found dead

TRIBUTES have flooded in after the father of murdered schoolgirl Sarah Payne was found dead in Maidstone this week.

Michael Payne had moved to the county town after splitting with his wife Sara and leaving his former home in Surrey.

The 45-year-old from Bishing Lane, Park Wood, had fought a battle with alcohol after his eight-year-old daughter was murdered by paedophile Roy Whiting in 2000.

His life had spiralled out of control in the following years, and his alcohol addiction had caused him significant problems.

In tributes posted on Facebook, his daughter Charlotte, wrote: "No matter what happened and how many mistakes we all made, you will always be my daddy."

His son Lee wrote: "Dad, you had your demons and troubles but you had a good heart and were a decent man... you will be missed. We are all heartbroken."

## Our Apprentice star fights on in TV show

FELIPE Alviar-Baquero managed to avoid the triple firing drama on BBC1's The Apprentice this week, as he continues in his quest to become Lord Sugar's new business partner.

The solicitor, who lives in Kings Hill and is originally from Colombia, was one of the stars of Wednesday night's show, however, when he took a leading role in an online video created by the candidates.

Their mission was to create a video to go viral, with the clip getting the most clicks winning the task.

Mr Alviar-Baquero took on the role of 'Fat Daddy' in a misjudged exercise video by one of the teams.

He was on the losing side, but avoided being one of the three called in to face the final judgement by the former Armad boss.

In a shock twist, Lord Sugar fired all three candidates describing them as "dead wood". Normally, only one candidate is told they are "fired" from the process.

The show continues next week.



# agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

## Paramount park plans for public consultation

A SERIES of public consultations begin this week into the £2billion London Paramount resort - proposed for the site of a former cement works on the Swanscombe peninsula.

The project, which will involve a major theme park, entertainment venues, exhibition space and hotels boasting 5,000 rooms, will create some 27,000 jobs. If all goes plan, it

will open by Easter 2020.

However, the planning process is lengthy and complex and it is eager to ensure the views of those living in the area are fully addressed.

Hence the series of meetings which begin in Greenhithe on Wednesday and run at various venues for the next two weeks.

Fenlon Dunphy, one of the key



executives behind the project, explained: "Consultation is key to the process."

For full details, see page 9 in last week's KoS - available to view, for free, at [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk).

## Anger over further fire strikes taking place now

FIRE chiefs in the county say they are "very disappointed" a further four days of strike action are taking place, across what is traditionally one of the busiest weekends of the year.

The Fire Brigade Union called its members out on Friday at 6pm. They will not return until 6pm on Tuesday.

Ann Millington, chief

executive of Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) said: "We are clearly very disappointed that a further strike has been called by the FBU. The dispute is between the union and the government and KFRS is not involved at all in the negotiations."

Residents are urged to take extra care to reduce risks.

## ...also

### Crossing to be closed

THE A249 Sheppey Crossing is due to be closed every weekend this month for maintenance work - starting this weekend.

The road will be resurfaced during the work which takes place between 8am and 6pm until November 30.

The Kingsferry Bridge remains open.

### Who will be 2014 Guy?

EDENBRIDGE Bonfire Society will unveil its celebrity Guy on Wednesday - with Top Gear motormouth Jeremy Clarkson favourite to become the latest burning effigy.

The Guy is torched at a special event next weekend.

### Quiz Southeastern boss

SOUTHEASTERN commuters have the chance to quiz senior management over extensive changes at London Bridge this Thursday.

It will be holding one of its regular 'meet the manager' sessions at London Victoria on November 6, from 8am to 10am.

### Clubs in cup glory quest

NEXT weekend sees a host of the county's top non-league clubs go into battle seeking FA Cup glory.

Maidstone United, Dover Athletic, Bromley and Dartford will all be in action next Saturday hoping to secure a place in the second round draw. See sport pages.



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**DIGGING THE DIRT:** The fracking industry has refuted claims the process of hydraulic fracturing - which used chemicals to break up rock - could contaminate our underground water supplies

**C**AMPAIGN groups are stepping up their demands Kent is declared a 'fracking-free zone' amid mounting concerns water supplies could be poisoned if the controversial practice takes place here.

Spearheaded by the local branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), it claims it has carried out research into the geological structure of areas in the county identified as possible areas for mining.

Hydraulic fracturing - colloquially known as 'fracking' - involves drilling into shale rock before pumping chemicals and water into it at extremely high pressure to fracture the rock, allowing gas or oil to flow out of it.

The problem, say the campaigners, is the chemicals which are used in the industry 'slick water' which is used to fracture the rock, are dangerous and could end up contaminating aquifers in Kent - the natural underground water supplies.

This factor, says CPRE Kent, outweighs any potential benefits that fracking may bring.

But the industry has already stated there is no issue with water contamination, repeatedly saying that the technologies it uses are second to none across the world, and arguing that regulation will ensure that there are no environmental concerns.

This, too, is the government line on fracking - that regulation will ensure there is no danger of environmental damage.

Gerwyn Williams is the chief executive of the only company to receive permission to drill an exploratory borehole - in Woodnesborough, near Sandwich. When he spoke to KoS, he said he felt the campaign group would do well to learn more about geology in the county.

He said: "They are very ill-informed in terms of shale, as Kent doesn't even have the Namurian shale which would allow fracking in the county. There's none there, which is the reason we chose to give back many of the licences which would have allowed us the rights to drill in the county.

"But aside from that, there was a

# 'Ill-informed' campaigners told poisoned water fears from fracking are unfounded

very big coal mining industry in Kent, and because of this, there has already been a tremendous amount of work under the ground in the county.

"There has been a huge amount of drilling across Kent over decades, and none of those boreholes have led to any kind of environmental issue or water contamination in the area, so why should any borehole drilled now, with much better technology available, cause a problem for water supplies?"

CPRE Kent, however, insists the risk remains.

Its vice-president, Richard Knox-Johnston, feels that safeguarding water in the county is crucial.

He said: "Water resources in Kent are already seriously stressed. There is a danger that if fracking went ahead we could damage the aquifer that provides most of the county's water.

"Plus, we fear that water supply boreholes could be damaged causing

pollution which would threaten public health as well as harm environmental quality, agriculture and wetland habitats."

The rural charity adds the gas and oil deposits which companies want to extract are no more than 600-700 metres below the chalk aquifer of the North Downs - this supplies 70 per cent of the county's residents.

And in a double blow, the charity also says the area which may be fracked has significant geological faults that may cause big issues such as earthquakes.

Mr Knox-Johnston said: "Fracking bans are now in place in parts of France, Germany, Austria, Spain and the Netherlands because of concerns over similar geological faults. We are demanding the same for east Kent."

But Mr Williams said that there is no big issue with the geological faults, telling KoS that despite the charity's

fears, the industry is so well regulated, things are unlikely to go wrong.

He said: "The industry is comparable to nuclear energy in the UK.

"There's almost no chance of anything going wrong, because it is so well regulated by a myriad of different agencies.

"The Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, Department of Energy and Climate Change, and the authorities who play a part in planning, all come in to play.

"That is a huge amount of regulation which all needs to be flawlessly adhered to; if we don't then the fracking simply doesn't take place. CPRE Kent are off their heads if they think that with all that regulation, anything is likely to go wrong."

**A**nd yet still, the campaign group harbours concerns that regulation will not take place, warning that operations will require 24-hour on-site monitoring by what the charity says needs to be "competent, independent inspectors".

It also questions how this will be achieved when the regulatory bodies are already, in its view, insufficiently staffed and facing further cuts.

Ken Cronin is the chief executive of industry group the UK Onshore Operators Group, or UKOOG.

He told KoS that the demands made by CPRE Kent were ludicrous, and tantamount to scaremongering from the charity.

He said: "The proposals for a frack-

free zone are not supported by the facts, which show that more than 200 wells have been fracked in the UK to date without any noticeable environmental issues, operating in areas of outstanding natural beauty, next to RSPB nature reserves and within a couple of miles of some of the most expensive homes in the UK.

"Eminent experts, including Public Health England, the Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering, the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management and Professor David Mackay and Dr Tim Stone, have all concluded that the risks are small in a properly regulated industry and the onshore oil and gas industry in the UK not only has some of the best environmental and safety records in the world but also operates under some of the toughest regulation in the world."

But still, the campaign group is demanding the minister for energy, Matthew Hancock, ensures fracking doesn't take place in Kent.

Mr Knox-Johnston said: "Given the over-riding need to protect unique and increasingly vulnerable water resources, we have to say no to fracking in east Kent.

"It is vital that the minister listens to our concerns and recognises the very real danger we face."

**■ What do you think about fracking? Share your views and join the debate. Write to The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP or email [editorial@kos-media.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kos-media.co.uk).**

**“ The proposals for a frack-free zone are not supported by the facts, which show that more than 200 wells have been fracked in the UK to date without any noticeable environmental issues ”**

**Ken Cronin**, chief executive of industry group UKOOG





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**I**T KILLED more than 14,000 people, dominated the news for years and lasted more than twice as long as the Second World War.

The war in Afghanistan is now finally over... for us at least.

It is 13 years since, determined to punish those responsible for the September 11 attacks, America and the UK launched military action against the country's Taliban rulers, who supported terrorist organisation Al Qaeda.

It took less than two months to oust the Taliban from the capital Kabul in 2001. Yet it was not until last Sunday that the West finally announced the end of its military operations in a country which has known no real peace since the 1980s.

So what have we been doing there all this time? Were we doing the right things? Or has the West, often criticised for a perceived inability to stay out of Middle Eastern affairs, merely made things worse by meddling?

For Canterbury MP Julian Brazier, who is parliamentary under secretary of state in the Ministry of Defence, the decision to go to war in 2001 was unquestionably the right one.

"We couldn't leave a government in place which was underpinning the worldwide operations of Al Qaeda and had provided a base for it to operate from. We couldn't have a terrorist state," the Tory MP said.

"No terror attack has ever killed as many British people as 9/11. But they weren't just attacking America; there was the Madrid bombing, the Bali bombing and the 7/7 bombings, which killed a lot of people in London.

"Eventually someone would have had to go in and do the job.

"And that initial campaign was relatively bloodless."

But he says the decision to go into the southern province of Helmand in 2006, to counter Taliban insurgents was a different matter.

"We [the UK] decided to go into bandit country in areas like Helmand, because the fear was that if we didn't tackle the outlying areas the Taliban, backed by Al Qaeda, would be resurgent," Mr Brazier explained.

"But we blundered into it without the right numbers of troops or the right resources. A very large number of people were killed, and there was a lot of fighting in which a large number of local people were killed too.

"We should have handled it differently. But we didn't get the vote on it till the night before it was due to start, when it was a bit late to vote against it.

"But it was right that we tried to extend the sway of the Kabul government to that very difficult area, and the bottom line is that with the help of the US Marines, who came in and saw off the Taliban, we won, and we have gone quite a long way to rebuilding the province."

He says Afghanistan is a better place thanks to the West's intervention, despite the mistakes made.

"There is no doubt about it. We are leaving Afghanistan in much better shape than when we went in," Mr Brazier said.

"There are now the beginnings of a proper civic culture, in a country where there has never been a peaceful transfer of power after an election before. Look at the millions of people who voted in the elections.

"The economy is moving forward, there are about 10 times as many schools and hospitals as there were a decade ago, and about three million

# 13 years and 14,000 dead: so was Afghan invasion worth it?

Its mission was to eradicate Taliban rulers who supported the terrorist organisation Al Qaeda in the wake of 9/11, but instead it became a conflict no-one could win. As UK troops finally lowered their colours in Afghanistan last week, **Sarah Linney** looks at whether the country is now a better place...



**WAR OF WORDS:** MP Julian Brazier, top right, supported the invasion, which was all wrong says Prof Ian Beckett

girls – who didn't get any education under the Taliban – are in schools."

However, Ian Beckett, professor of military history at the University of

**“There were not enough troops and they were not equipped for the situation. Political errors meant the Army was fighting with one hand behind its back”**

**Professor Ian Beckett**, military historian from University of Kent

Kent, says the decision to go to war in Iraq was disastrous for the Afghanistan campaign.

"I think the initial campaign was the right decision – it was very successful and ousted the Taliban relatively quickly," he said.

"But instead of staying there and undertaking the kind of reconstruction that would almost certainly have helped the situation in the long term, we took our eye off the ball and went off to Iraq, assuming the job was finished. And all the problems Iraq resulted in enabled the Taliban to come back.

"Going into Iraq was a crazy decision. Saddam Hussein was perfectly contained because of the nature of the no-fly zone and the sanctions, and he didn't pose a threat to us."

And he agreed with Mr Brazier that a lack of resources left the army severely hampered.

"If we had had the resources, we could have done it better. But there was a gross underestimation of the task," Professor Beckett said.

"There were not enough troops and they were not equipped for the situation in which they were going to find themselves. A series of errors by politicians meant the Army was fighting with one hand tied behind its back.

"The force levels available to us at that time were not sufficient to undertake two major operations at the same time. With the cuts that have been applied to the armed forces, we couldn't undertake one large scale operation now.

"The politicians were culpable, but

a degree of responsibility also has to be attached to the military advice. They didn't give adequate advice to ministers and say, these things are not possible."

But he says a lack of understanding of Afghan society – and how it differs from Western society – was also part of the problem.

"We didn't fully understand the situation that had developed since the initial operations," Professor Beckett explained.

"This has been a problem generally with Afghanistan. In the old days, because of the British presence in India, we had an understanding of the nature of tribal society.

"But we had not had the experience of working with that society effectively since 1948, when we left India, and in the intervening years we had lost our understanding of Afghan society's peculiar dynamics."

**H**e says Britain's confidence that it knew what it was doing when it came to counter-insurgency – dealing with uprisings – had become slightly misplaced.

"Although overall, British counter-insurgency has been very successful since 1945, there was a degree of complacency," Professor Beckett said.

"We thought, we can get this right because we've always got it right in the past.

"But there had not been a lot of counter-insurgency in recent years, and the Northern Ireland troubles had become so much less, so our expertise in counter-insurgency had been degraded. Experts had left the Army and the manuals we used had not been updated for years.

"Those who were trying to apply the strategy didn't have the experience.

"Counter-insurgency is both a military and political process.

"You need to separate the insurgents from the population and provide benefits to the population – you have to give the people positive reasons for supporting the authorities."

And, he says, what matters more than whether we have made Afghanistan a better place is what happens to Afghanistan now.

"There have been improvements to infrastructure and education, particularly for women, and to women's rights," Professor Beckett said.

"But the big question is whether the Afghan army and authorities are sufficiently capable to maintain the progress we have bequeathed them.

"I wouldn't be sanguine about it.

"Time will tell, and clearly they are better equipped than they were, but there is still endemic corruption.

"The administration is still bedeviled by ethnic, tribal rivalries, and there are rivalries within Afghan society generally.

"The Taliban are less powerful, but they are still very much a presence in many parts of Afghanistan.

"So often we assume that democracy is desirable in all circumstances, but society is not uniform worldwide.

"There are some states where democracy is never going to work and is not necessarily desirable.

"Everyone wants security, peace, progress and prosperity, but they are not necessarily obtained through democracy. There are certain societies which have never had it and are unlikely to be able to benefit from it, and whether we should always try to impose democracy on those societies is a moot point."



**H**AVE you heard of TTIP? Don't worry, you're not alone. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership might be one of the biggest free trade agreements in history, but it hasn't exactly made the headlines.

The TTIP is a free trade agreement set to be signed between the US and EU, possibly before the end of this year – and to its supporters, it's a great opportunity for economic growth, prosperity, higher wages and more jobs.

To its opponents, it's a gateway to big business becoming even more powerful – at the expense of public and environmental protection and even the NHS.

More than 871,000 people have signed a petition against the agreement, started by national campaign group 38 Degrees.

Green MEP Keith Taylor, who represents Kent in the European Parliament, said he had been "inundated" with letters from constituents worried about it.

"The reason this deal demands concern is that its stated aim is to remove regulatory 'barriers' to trade," he explained.

"Unlike other deals which aim to remove tariffs (taxes) on trade, TTIP actually seeks to remove regulations – hard fought-for standards and protections that are enshrined in laws across the EU and US.

"Examples of these include labour rights, environmental regulations and food safety laws."

He says there is a real threat of EU laws being brought into line with less stringent US regulations.

"Some of the US's food safety laws are much lower than those in the EU.

"Products such as bleached chicken and hormone-fed cattle products are sold in the US, whereas we are protected from these products in the EU," Mr Taylor said.

"The TTIP could see previously banned products entering our markets.

"We also face the potential reality that TTIP would open up the NHS for further privatisation.

"This is because the TTIP negotiators are keen to create new markets through the deal by opening up public services and government procurement contracts to competition."

There is also a possibility that the agreement may make provision for companies to sue governments if they believe their profits are limited by government policy.

"We'd be a step closer to corporations writing laws instead of governments," Mr Green added.

"From the outset, the deal has been created with corporations in mind. Even before the negotiations, corporations were being granted privileged access to the TTIP."

Sally Carroll, who lives in Deal, is among those campaigning against TTIP.

She became involved after receiving an email from 38 Degrees and believes that the deal leaves us open to all sorts of risks – from fracking to privatised healthcare.

"The thing that really worried me is that it would appear that the privatisation of the NHS would be irreversible under TTIP," Mrs Carroll said.

"I don't really want them to open our public services procurement to every Tom, Dick and Harry around the world.

"The US has very different standards around food regulation, environmental regulation, minimum wages,



# Free trade deal may break down the wrong barriers

**Sarah Linney** looks at a little-known agreement to be signed between the EU and America, the consequences of which has seen 871,000 people petition against it

employment laws and GM production, and I think it will be very hard for the EU to resist that sort of dumbing down."

She has taken part in two days of campaigning against the deal, collecting signatures on the 38 Degrees petition in Deal and Dover in August and October.

"By October more people were saying yes, we have heard about it and yes, we are concerned," Mrs Carroll said.

"I am not against change. I have worked my entire life in the NHS and it is quite clear that change has to happen. But change is about improving things. Why are we doing this? Where's the benefit for the public?"

Dover Labour councillor and fellow campaigner Peter Wallace added: "The deal is far too invasive.

"The Labour Party is in favour of the deal, but we want the guarantee that the NHS has to be open to private companies taken out.

"Billions of pounds of services have

been privatised already, but it has been done under the radar. If you go to a hospital or get picked up by an ambulance you may think it's the NHS, but it may be private.

"People will eventually see changes – companies will be taking profit out and there will be less spent on care. We have all seen what happens with the gas and electric companies."

**H**owever, Ashford MP Damian Green says the benefits the deal will bring to the UK will be enormous.

"It's logical to have free trade between two of the world's most prosperous areas. It would create jobs and spread prosperity – that's one of the great benefits of free trade," he told Kent on Sunday.

"One of the reasons why we got through the recession, as opposed to having 1930s problems, is that we didn't put up barriers to trade between countries.

"The more we can reduce those barriers, the more we all benefit.

"All the evidence is that free trade benefits both sides of the deal.

"The EU has brought greater prosperity to us. If we had trade barriers to our greatest export market, we would sell less to them and they would sell less to us."

And he says he does not believe the NHS will suffer as a result of the deal.

"What's valuable about the NHS is that it's free at the point of use. It doesn't matter how rich anyone is, they get the same treatment," Mr Green said.

"This won't alter the state of the

NHS. If new people come in to provide specialist services, as long as there isn't charging, that preserves the valuable part of the NHS.

"Water, electricity and gas are already provided by private companies. The more competition you have, the better for the consumers. No one argues for one national food provider.

"The richer our society is, the more money we have for public services and looking after the environment.

"On the whole, the environment is treated better in richer countries than in poorer countries, as we can afford to generate electricity in less harmful ways."

And he says that, far from giving undue power to big corporations, the potential to sue governments could be an important way of keeping our law-makers in line.

"The government has the power to regulate businesses, but it has to do it legally. Making governments obey the law is quite important," Mr Green said.

Nor does he believe the deal is irreversible. "If a future government was mad enough to want to pull out, of course they could.

"You can pull out of any international agreement," he added.

"It's a trade deal, not a big constitutional change. We sign free trade deals with lots of countries – we are in the middle of signing one with Canada. We do these things all the time. It's part of politics."

And Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke had little time for opponents of the agreement.

"The only people who are against it are really against free trade – the hard

left extremists who don't believe in making Britain more successful," he said.

"They don't want Britain to be more competitive, and they want higher prices for consumers in shops.

"The claims about the NHS are nonsense. It's a fear campaign. There are specific safeguards against that happening – there are specific rules that say it doesn't apply to public services.

"But there is private participation in the NHS, fostered by the last Labour government, and it's up to the NHS to ensure that there's a proper standard of care whoever provides it.

"The most important thing is getting the best patient care and putting the patient first."

**H**e pointed out that when it came to food safety, the EU could hardly claim to be above reproach.

"There are real concerns about ensuring food is safe. The EU food distribution chain is very weak and allowed horsemeat to be labelled incorrectly and sold," Mr Elphicke said.

"I don't see it as a matter of TTIP, I see it as our food needing to be safe. As for employment regulations, we have our own employment laws.

"It's still under negotiation and discussion, and the lead in negotiation has been taken by Britain, so we should trust the negotiators to ensure we get the safeguards we need."

**■ What do you think? Share your views and join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk)**

**“It's a trade deal, not a big constitutional change. We sign free trade deals with lots of countries. We do these things all the time. It's part of politics”**

**Ashford MP Damian Green,** on reasons behind agreement





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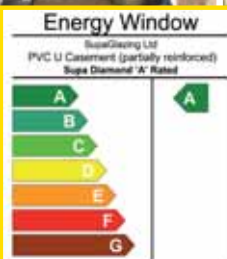
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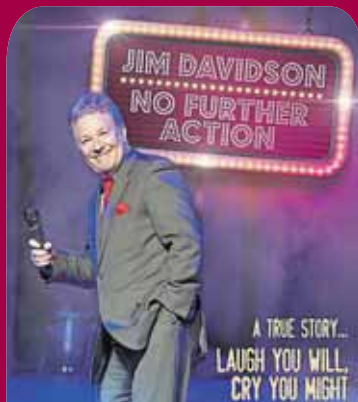
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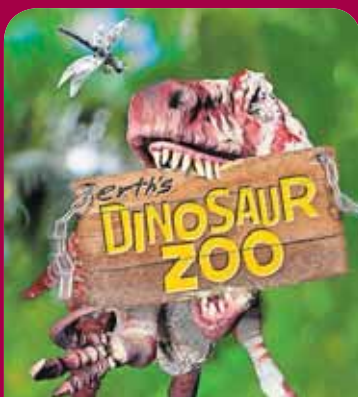
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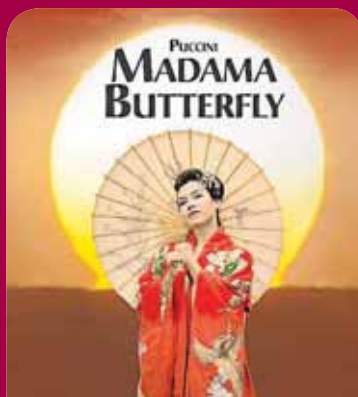
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# Resignation out of the question as Ann vows to complete the job she started

In the concluding part of our readers Q&A with Police and Crime Commissioner **Ann Barnes**, she tackles the subject of reoffending, CCTV and how she'll complete her sometimes criticised tenure...

**W**HEN Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes agreed to answer your questions on any topic, we got a bumper sack of mail.

From street lighting to motoring concerns, you sent in a varied range of queries.

Last week we printed the first batch – and here is the second and concluding part.

And remember, if you missed last week's Kent on Sunday, you can access it in its entirety, and for free, via our website [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk). Simply click on the link to the e-editions where you can browse our archives.

**Q**THE main reason as to why reoffending rates are so high is that once offenders are released and on probation, benefits take six weeks to start before any monies are received, giving the them nothing to live on.

Getting them into work should be a priority but they are not permitted to work on construction sites: construction companies are basically the best employers for people who are not academically inclined.

You declined supporting early employment in construction, supporting the police and probation position.

What are you proposing to help resolve reoffending if getting them in work is not a viable option?

**Stephen Lukacs**, via email

**A**I AM aware of Stephen's interest in this area and the work he is doing in the local community.

Protecting the public and reducing reoffending are the responsibilities of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company which was formed on June 1 following the Government's reform of probation services.

For more about the company's work I would suggest visiting its website [<http://kssrc.co.uk/our-work>].

Through both my Commissioner's Fund and the Youth Diversion Fund, I have been able to support a range of projects but a couple that we have been able to help involve working with offenders as well as using the experience of offenders to deter others from becoming involved in crime.

Only recently I was in Swanley where I visited a project that I have helped to fund called No Bother. West Kent Extra youth workers, assisted by serving offenders, help young people who are in danger of exclusion from their school.

The harsh realities of making the wrong decisions in life were highlighted by offenders who know the consequences only too well and are among the best placed to help our young people keep on the right path.

**Q**IN the year to the end of March 2014, the 96 monitored CCTV cameras in Seven-oaks district assisted the police on 135 occasions and helped in 50 arrests.

Police officers attended the council's control room 287 times and 1,041 force control requests were received.

Does the commissioner recognise the benefits of this service to the police? Would she consider helping to pay for it from the police budget?

Alternatively, would she be happy to see a reduction in the service if the council is no longer able to pay for it from its own resources?

**Cllr Cameron Clark**,

member for Ash and New Ash Green

**A**CCTV is the responsibility of local authorities, it is not paid for from the police budget.

**Q**I WOULD like to know what, if anything, will be done about the increasing number of (mainly young) drivers who have

**“ I would strongly disagree with you that there is a systemic culture of failure to enforce the law. This is certainly not the case amongst the dedicated officers who I talk with ”**

**Ann Barnes**, who refutes suggestions lack of police presence sees more speeding





**STANDING FIRM:** Ann Barnes was appointed the county's first Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012, a role she's very proud of

deliberately removed the front number plates from their cars.

There must be up to 20 in Thanet alone.  
**John Sherwell**, by email

**A** IT IS an offence to fail display a number plate – make sure if you see a vehicle without one then you report it.

**Q** AS A relatively new resident to Kent, one of the things I've been struck by is the blatant disregard for speed limits both in built up areas and on main roads.

Much of this is due partly to the lack of a visible police presence. It seems there is a systemic culture of failure to enforce the law.

How can this be changed and what role can also be played by Kent County Council in ensuring our roads are safer?

**Anthony McCully**, Sandwich

**A** YOU will appreciate I cannot answer on behalf of Kent County Council and I would encourage you to contact your local county councillor.

I would strongly disagree with you that there is a systemic culture of failure to enforce the law. This is certainly not the case amongst the dedicated officers who I talk with regularly and see as I go about my life as a resident of Kent.

I don't know how 'new' you are to Kent but you may be interested to know that the issue of a visible police presence was mentioned to me time and time again during my first year as Police and Crime Commissioner when I was out and about visiting as many local communities as possible.

This is why it was music to my ears when Chief Constable Alan Pughsley said he was going to introduce a new model of policing which would put local police teams at its very heart.

Under the new model, introduced in June (2014), the 13 district chief inspectors have direct control of their local police teams. They are

# London Paramount Entertainment Resort



**London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH), the company behind the proposed London Paramount Entertainment Resort on the Swanscombe Peninsula, is hosting public consultation events in November to share exciting information about the project.**

Local people are encouraged to drop-in to any of the events to see the emerging masterplan and share their views with the team.

<b>British Legion Greenhithe</b> London Road, Greenhithe DA9 9EJ	<b>Wed 5 November</b>	11am – 2pm
<b>Eastgate</b> 141 Springhead Parkway DA11 8AD	<b>Wed 5 November</b>	4pm – 7.30pm
<b>Northfleet School for Girls</b> Hall Road, Gravesend DA11 8AQ	<b>Thurs 6 November</b>	4pm – 8pm
<b>Dartford Council Offices</b> Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR	<b>Fri 7 November</b>	3.30pm – 7.30pm
<b>Swanscombe Leisure Centre</b> Craylands Lane, Swanscombe DA10 0LP	<b>Sat 8 November</b>	2pm – 5pm
<b>Hazlitt Arts Centre (The Exchange Studio)</b> Earl St, Maidstone ME14 1PL	<b>Mon 10 November</b>	2pm – 6pm
<b>Bluewater (Opposite Lower Winter Garden food court entrance)</b> Greenhithe DA9 9ST	<b>Tues 11 November</b>	10am – 9pm
<b>Thurrock Civic Hall</b> Blackshots Ln, Grays RM16 2JU	<b>Wed 12 November</b>	2pm – 6pm
<b>The Woodville</b> Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU	<b>Thurs 13 November</b>	4pm – 8pm
<b>St Botolphs Church Hall</b> The Hill, Northfleet DA11 9EU	<b>Fri 14 November</b>	3.30pm – 7.30pm
<b>Ebbsfleet United Football Club</b> Stonebridge Road, Northfleet, DA11 9GN	<b>Sat 15 November</b>	1pm – 3pm (Match ticket holders only)
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able to direct resources where their district needs them and work with partners to address specific local problems.

Each district also has a new team of six officers and a sergeant, who will be based in Community Safety Units, particularly tackling anti-social behaviour and those persistent issues that can so blight a community.

**Q**AS Kent is the prime gateway for continental HGV lorries into the UK and has recycling facilities for various dangerous goods including asbestos from adjacent counties via the Dartford Crossing, why is it that that the Health and Safety Executive's Register of Prosecutions and Notices relating to the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Notices does not have hardly any prosecutions or notices issued by Kent Police since 2010?

**David Bass**, by email

**A**I AM told by Kent Police that offences disclosed have been dealt with by way of letters of advice as the most proportionate response in relation to the level of violations that have been identified.

Why this type of response is not recorded on the Health and Safety Executive website is a matter for the HSE.

**Q**IS THE new term 'beating' taking the place of the charge of GBH or ABH in respect of an assault on a person. And, if so, would it be a fair assumption that this could be seen as trivialising what could be a serious situation?

**Valerie O'Callaghan**, Walmer



**A**PLEASE ask the Crown Prosecution Service to define the difference – the CPS advises on charging decisions and is responsible for prosecuting criminal cases investigated by the police.

What I can speak about is my absolute commitment to improve services for victims of crime in the county and make sure the experiences of victims are not trivialised.

I now have a really good opportunity to do this because the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) began devolving responsibility for the commissioning of victim support services to all Police and Crime Commissioners from the beginning of October.

The first phase of the work will bring together Kent Police's Witness Care Unit with the Victim Support

charity in one building – by April 2015 – and will immediately enhance the support that is currently available. The long-term aims will be to fundamentally improve the experience for victims of crime going through the entire criminal justice system, in partnership with agencies across the county.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to make sure that victims here in Kent have access to locally-provided services to meet their needs, rather than the current one-size-fits-all response which national commissioning delivers.

We have to grasp that opportunity with both hands.

For far too long the criminal justice system has serviced the needs of the offenders rather than their victims

and it's about time that was balanced out.

**Q**COULD the public be made aware of the structure of Kent Police?

We have no access to the internet and would interested to know how many inspectors, sergeants, constables and special constitute Kent Police. Job title descriptions and salaries should also be made accessible.

**Jean Goulden**, Rochester

**A**I AM sure if you ask Kent Police directly, they will be able to provide the information.

**Q**WILL Ann Barnes fund our local neighbourhood watch for another year?

£500 will be ample.

**David Evans**, St Mary's Bay

**A**I BELIEVE Neighbourhood Watch plays an essential part in community life and I would like to see the links with Kent Police developed as I believe that we will all benefit.

To that end I have been supporting work on developing the relationship between the two and I shall continue to do what I can to help groups, including your own, across the county with particular initiatives and ideas that benefit the communities they help.

**Q**WOULD you be prepared to cut your staff so money could be used to enrol more officers?

This would relieve the awful pressure that serving officers are under – they are all at their lowest ebb.

**Kathleen Mannerings**, via email

**A**THE staff I have in place support the work that I am bound in law to deliver as Police and Crime Commissioner.

We have had to lose a fifth of the Kent Police workforce and it is to the credit of remaining officers and police staff that they continue to deliver such a quality service in what can be very difficult circumstances.

**Q**AFTER a disastrous and disgraceful tenure as PCC, why won't you do the honourable thing and resign?

**Richard Coulson**, via email

**A**I HAVE no intention of resigning, there is still a lot of work to be done.

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**L**ORD Lucan was smuggled out of the UK via Headcorn airport in the dead of night, according to a new book.

In the latest Kent link to a mystery which continues to fascinate the nation, author Laura Thompson claims she was told by a driver he had whisked the aristocrat to the private airfield from a house in Sussex.

Lucan went missing shortly after the brutal murder of his children's nanny at the home of his estranged wife in London's plush Belgravia in November, 1974.

At an inquest into her death, the coroner declared Lucan had killed the 29-year-old nanny - Sandra Rivett - after mistaking her for his wife.

His wife, Veronica, now 75, was also attacked and identified her husband as the attacker, sparking a major international manhunt.

But in 1981, Lady Lucan, who needed 60 stitches to a head wound after the attack, would only go as far as to say: "I only know that, at the time, I thought my husband had hit me."

But there the trail rapidly gets cold.

The gambler - nicknamed Lucky Lucan by his friends - was never seen publicly again, although is known to have visited friends before fleeing.

His car was found deserted at Newhaven - prompting suggestions he had boarded a cross-Channel ferry and thrown himself into the sea.

No body was ever found, however, and for many the suspicion his rich and influential friends gave him safe passage out of the country, has generated headlines ever since.

This latest claim is one more theory in a long line of allegations.

Previously it was claimed a former MI5 agent stashed the murder suspect at the Wellington Hotel in Tunbridge Wells and then on to the Crown Inn, Groombridge, before an elaborate operation to fly him out of Heathrow to Athens, and then possibly on to Botswana.

There are other claims he ended up off the Dover coast at the bottom of the English Channel, or an aide to Kent-based casino and zoo boss John Aspinall, helped organise his exit from the UK, again, to Africa.

Now Ms Thompson has stirred the pot once more, with Kent again playing a central role.

In her book *A Different Class of Murder*, Ms Thompson says Lucan had hired a hitman to kill his wife. They lived apart, but only by 100 yards or so. Veronica had the children.

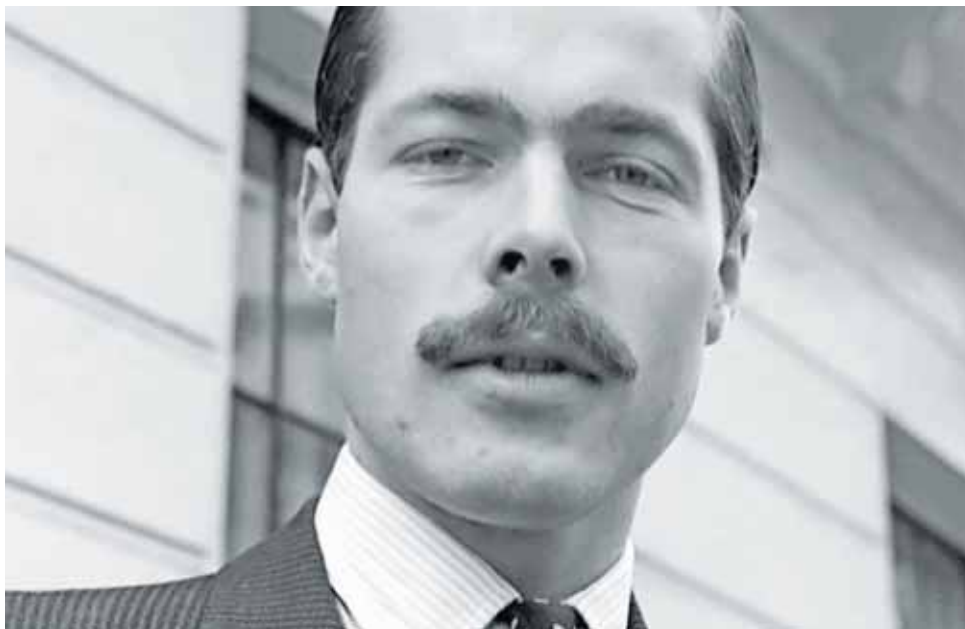
On the night of the 'hit' Lucan had come to his senses and tried to stop the contract being completed and dashed to his wife's home. He was too late and the deed was done. But it appears the wrong woman was dead.

From that moment, in the early hours of November 8 1974, the Lucan saga was born and Richard John Bingham, the 7th Earl of Lucan, vanished.

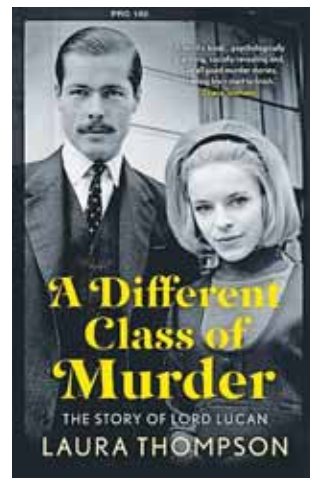
It later emerged, he had £60,000 of gambling debts, a not inconsiderable amount today, and an absolute fortune in 1974.

Over the years, he was 'spotted' in a variety of locations, including Africa, India, Australia and Holland, at a Greek monastery in the company of a former government spy and part of a private underground army.

After a year of research, Laura Thompson says she found herself speaking with a driver over a drink who had a new and perfectly plausible tale - his father was the 'getaway' driver for Lord Lucan, delivering him to Headcorn airfield.



**LONG GONE:** Laura Thompson, pictured right, claims Lord Lucan was flown out of the country after the 1974 murder



# Has author finally solved vanishing act of Lord Lucan?

Chance conversation with taxi driver may hold key to killer's disappearance after nanny's murder. **Chris Murphy** reports

The men ran a family taxi business.

After the murder it seems Lucan arrived at the Uckfield, Sussex, home of good friend Susan Maxwell-Scott, where a nanny worked, and she too gave some fresh details.

The book claims Lucan arrives with Ms Maxwell-Scott hours after the murder in a borrowed blood-smear Ford Corsair.

This car was driven to Newhaven and abandoned as a diversionary tactic to put police off the scent.

The author's source said he had been sent to pick up a person from there in the morning and take them back to Uckfield.

Meanwhile, this man's father was taking Lucan to Headcorn. The son only learned of this in

**“And then there is this witness who came forward to me, entirely of his volition, and said ‘My father was called to take him to near Headcorn’”**

**Laura Thompson**, on new evidence over lord's getaway



the 1980s when his father finally confessed who he had in the back of his cab that fateful night.

The nanny to the Maxwell-Scott household recounts a conversation she was party to at the house between Lucan and Susan. During that emotional conversation, the Lord did indeed confess to hiring a hitman and had gone to the house to call it all off, yet arrived just too late.

**L**aura Thompson told us what she discovered about the new Kent connection with the earl's disappearance.

She doesn't believe Lucan dashed to John Aspinall's London home to change clothes, as there was little time to do that as well as possibly visit the home of Princess Diana's mother Frances Shand-Kydd's home and then

get to Uckfield 90 minutes away. She said: "There simply wasn't time for all those things. He turned up at Susan Maxwell-Scott's home late at night. We know he phoned his mother from there at 12.15am to check on his children who were at her house."

"He then spent time writing letters

to Bill Shand-Kydd that were Uckfield post marked. The Corsair was found by police in Newhaven between five and eight in the morning.

"And then there is this witness who came forward to me, entirely of his volition, and said 'My father was called to take him to near Headcorn', he didn't specify.

"And then he himself was asked to pick up a person from Newhaven and take them back to Uckfield.

"Now this man was great, I really liked him, he wasn't a nutter. He was a very sensible down-to-earth man. I don't doubt him, but I do rather doubt his father telling him this story.

"I quizzed him for a couple of hours - he knew the Maxwell-Scotts. He had Royal clearance and I think the reason this hasn't come out before is because that was the done thing when dealing with the establishment.

"He had driven people like Princess Margaret and it was inappropriate to talk - he was only talking now because everyone involved is now dead."

In the driver's words, speaking about what his father had told him, he said: "There's a little airfield near Headcorn. He didn't actually say he went to an airfield - just near to Headcorn. He didn't say what time it was."

The father also claimed Lucan had gone to France. The writer also said she had been told Grand Prix ace Graham Hill had provided the aircraft, but she remains sceptical of this.

Ms Thompson added: "I personally think Lucan did kill himself. I am sure there are still people who aren't telling all they know."

Kent on Sunday contacted Jamie Freeman, the managing director of Headcorn airfield and asked if he had a reaction to the suggestion.

He told us: "Yes, all hype. We had not been consulted by the author about this claim." The book is published by Head of Zeus in hardback for £20 and available as an eBook.

They all dream of reaching the higher echelons of the game and the wealth that comes with it. But, as



**LONG GONE:** Ashford sold Essella Park to build a new Homelands ground

# Clubs' tough task to pull in crowds after abandoning our town centres

**O**NCE upon a time, if you wanted to cheer on your local football team, you headed to the town centre and followed the crowds.

In the post-war years, supporting your local non-league team was enjoyed by thousands of people every weekend.

But as the profile of the game increased and our shopping habits changed, so did demand.

And while clubs continued, albeit with far smaller attendances and a constant battle against declining revenues, the justification for having a stadium in such a central location

proved difficult to justify.

Especially when developers were happy to wave large cheques under the noses of cash-strapped football club chairmen.

As a consequence, those once central hubs of weekly worship for football fans have been shifted to the outskirts of the town.

And those are the lucky ones.

Clubs such as Sittingbourne, Maidstone and Canterbury either spent spells, or continue, to live nomadic lives, ground-sharing – football's equivalent of sleeping on a friend's sofa.

For many, the prospect of a new ground offers the dream of revenues

– just ask Gillingham chairman Paul Scally. He has been keen to relocate from the club's Priestfield location – right in the heart of the town – to increase capacity and facilities.

But the pursuit of glory can often come at a high cost.

We take a look at the ups and downs encountered by some of the county's leading teams...

## MAIDSTONE UNITED

PERHAPS the most famous story of a club that flew too close to the sun is Maidstone United.

In the late 1980s, the club, playing



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**Chris Murphy** reports, this goal has brought some of our football teams battling for their very survival



**PITCH PERFECT:** Maidstone United's newly built Gallagher Stadium, above left, saw the club return to the county town after years away; Dartford lost their Watling Street ground, above, in 1992

its home games at the Athletic Ground in London Road, were knocking on the door of the promised land for any non-league club – the Football League.

As part of its pursuit of glory, management at the time decided to sell its ground to the now defunct flatpack furniture company MFI.

The consequence was the club was left homeless, but quickly struck a deal with Dartford to share its

Watling Street home.

In an attempt to return to Maidstone, the club's board purchased a piece of land east of the town in Hollingbourne for a reported £400,000. But that move was scuppered by the council when it refused planning permission saying it was a conservation area.

The land remains unused today.

It plunged the club into a financial crisis, just at the point it was enjoying

life in the professional leagues for the first time.

The cracks started to appear, and after splashing out a further £500,000 on bringing Dartford's Watling Street up to standard for the Football League, Dartford suddenly found itself having to pick up the tab.

Maidstone United went bust and was forced out of the Football League. Dartford collapsed soon after – forced to sell its ground to pay off creditors.

Today, Watling Street is used for housing. The Stones' former London Road site now a commercial park for a host of stores.

When a new Maidstone United club was born from the ashes of the collapsed club, it started without a local home – ground-sharing as it climbed up through the non-league pyramid with the likes of Ashford and Sittingbourne.

However, the club had a happy con-

clusion when it finally moved back into the newly built Gallagher Stadium in 2011. In a rare situation, a club returning to the very heart of the town which it serves.

#### DARTFORD

PRIOR to Maidstone United's role in dragging Dartford under the waves of

**PAGE 22 »**

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**FALLEN ANGEL:** Tonbridge saw their Angels Ground pulled down in 1980, after the club slipped into liquidation, and was replaced by a shopping centre

## « PAGE 21

financial hardship, the club had a long history in the area.

In the 1900s, Dartford used several pitches in the area, before getting Summers Meadow in Lowfield Street on a long lease.

The Great War happened and Summers was no longer available.

Local business stepped in realising decent football was a morale booster and the club was restructured. From 1921 it was a limited company, unique at the time.

A site was found in Watling Street in the neighbouring parish of Stone, and that was home until a major financial crisis forced the sale of the ground in 1992.

After the ill-fated sharing with Maidstone United (see above), Dartford collapsed and Watling Street was sold for housing.

Reborn, Dartford then did some more ground sharing over a number of years with various clubs including Cray Wanderers, Erith and Belvedere, Purfleet, plus Gravesend and Northfleet.

A new home was needed for the Darts and Princes Park, with a capacity of 4,100 saw its first match on Saturday 11 November 2006 – it marked the return of football to Dartford for the first time in almost 14 years.

A community venue, it has proved a successful and much envied facility.

## ASHFORD TOWN/UNITED

CERTAINLY Ashford would have had plenty to talk about when Maidstone shared with them in recent years.

After leaping across various venues in its earliest days, in 1930 the

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**STANDING ROOM ONLY:** Both Sittingbourne, pictured left, and Canterbury football clubs, right, are currently ground-sharing after losing their homes

club moved to Essella Park - a ground in Willesborough and surrounded by the booming population which grew up around the town's railway roots.

But in the mid-1980s, the club agreed to sell the ground to make way for yet more housing. The money invested in building a new ground.

Built on a farm called The Homelands, from which it took its name, the new ground was in Kingsnorth, some four miles south of the town centre.

The consequence, ever since, has been a struggle not only to get people to the ground, but to remind those who live in the town centre that there is a football club in the town as it is so out of the way.

It certainly hasn't helped the club

which went bust a few years ago as Ashford Town and was reborn as Ashford United.

#### SITTINGBOURNE

FROM 1881 to 1890, Sittingbourne played at the town's main recreation ground moving to Gore Court in 1890 for two years.

From there it was on to the Bull Ground until 1990 when they sold the site for £4.5 million and built a new state of the art stadium on the outskirts of the town. The club was hugely ambitious and set its sights on becoming one of the non-league's biggest clubs.

But the Central Park Stadium saw some overspending which caused the

club a measure of financial difficulty.

After failing to deliver the success on the pitch to generate the monies to support its large home ground, by 2002 the club sold the ground to the council with an agreement to lease it back.

It was finally leased to a company which ran greyhound racing events, that also allowed the football club to sign a seven-year lease, which was a requirement of the Southern League.

The club found it hard to guarantee the availability of the stadium due to the racing, however, and agreed to start playing their games on part of the complex where they used to train. This was built in 2002 and named Bourne Park.

In March 2013 it was announced

they would leave Bourne Park at the end of the season for financial reasons, and made the move to Woodstock Park to share with Southern Counties East League side Woodstock Sports.

#### CANTERBURY CITY

IT IS often said that Canterbury is an anomaly in that despite its size it has no football club of any senior status to crow about.

Certainly Canterbury City has had a bit of a lonely existence playing some of their recent home games at Herne Bay's Winch's Field.

Canterbury's original ground was at the Kingsmead Stadium which was re-developed for residential housing.

The former dump was also used for athletics, greyhounds, and speedway. The latter made too much noise for locals and was shut down in 1999.

Housing is now on the site.

The club has been in discussion with the city council to identify potential sites for a new Community Football Centre which it would also use.

In the first seasons since reforming the club initially played at Bridge and then for the 2009-10 season played at the Recreation Ground in Hersden. After the start of the 2010-11 season the club arranged an ongoing ground-share agreement to play their home matches at Herne Bay.

Next season it will ground-share with...Ashford United.

#### TONBRIDGE

FOR people of a certain age, where Sainsbury's now stands in the centre of the town was also the scene of some of their greatest footballing memories.

Tonbridge FC attracted thousands of fans during their hey-day of the 1950s but, as with so many other non-league clubs, the decline in crowds saw pressure grow on their prime town centre site.

By the mid-1970s, the club had slipped into liquidation - being reborn as the Tonbridge Angels - and the Angel Ground's landlord - the local council, had plans.

It sparked a long-running battle over redevelopment plans.

Eventually, the ground was pulled down in 1980 and replaced by the Angel Shopping Centre.

The club relocated to the edge of town - the Longmead Stadium.

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**EERIE IS:** Neil Arnold has spent years researching many of the county's supernatural stories

# Ghostbuster's tales of the unexplained

Ghost hunter **Neil Arnold** is well known throughout the county for his tales of things that go bump in the night. So who better to hear from in the weekend which was kicked off by Halloween...

**I**F one were to compile a list of the reputedly most haunted places in Kent then surely the old village of Pluckley, near Ashford would come top every time.

However, after many years of research resulting in a book called *Haunted Ashford*, I found out that a majority of the ghostly tales attached to that location were in fact made up several decades ago.

It doesn't stop ghost-hunters galore flocking to the 'Screaming Woods' or the Black Horse pub, though.

We all love a good ghost story around Halloween time so I thought I'd share with you a few dark tales to be told over a flickering camp fire...

For me, one of Kent's most haunted locations is Blue Bell Hill, near Maidstone.

Reputedly the haunt of a young woman in a pale dress who many believe to be the victim of a terrible car accident in 1965, it would seem that this myth can now be dispelled as myself and researcher friend have found numerous accounts of a female ghost dating back to the early parts of the 1900s.

In most incidents, witnesses driving up that creepy old hill have in fact observed a young lady in an old fashioned pale dress (and not a bridal gown as the legends state); whilst others have described hideous encounters with a hag in black which accosts cars.

But Blue Bell Hill, like so many locations in the Garden of England, has its fair share of little known spectres; including that of a phantom white dog, a giant black hellhound, the spectre of a little girl; a spectral coach and horses and even a ghostly monk or two.

I wrote a book on the town of Bromley and was amazed at the amount of ghost stories connected to the area; the most famous probably being the phantom airmen and ghostly Spitfire plane over Biggin Hill but how many people know of the numerous pubs in the area such as Ye Olde Whyte Lion at Locksbottom, said to date back to the 1600s and be the haunt of a ghostly woman?

Is it any coincidence that many years ago the skeletal remains of a woman were discovered in the pub after renovation and the skull was placed on display by a former landlord?

It is said that ever since then the spectre of a woman would appear; possibly at unrest although current staff haven't reported anything untoward.

In similar circumstances, the Beech Tree pub on the London Road was thought to be the haunt of a former customer/landlord whose ashes sat behind the bar. Legend claims that when a former landlord moved the urn to the pub garden all hell broke loose within the pub but when the ashes were returned to their original place the paranormal activity ceased.

Pubs always seem to harbour ghosts; maybe it's a way of bringing in the customers although the phantom black monk said to haunt The Coopers Arms in Rochester could well deter some - especially children as to the right of the King's Bar in this ancient pub there can be found a little-sized model of a black monk.

It is said that centuries ago a local monk had an illicit affair with a local woman and was bricked up alive in

the dank basement as punishment from the brotherhood and so every November his tormented soul is said to wander. Although not many have seen him, more recently an employee claimed that whilst in bed one night at the pub he was awoken by the sound of some body or 'thing' banging on his bedroom door.

When I asked him what he did he replied, "I acted like any brave man would and pulled the sheets over my head and waited for the dawn to come", but had he really had an escape from the fiendish monk? Probably not.

Some of my favourite ghost stories in Kent concern animals; for instance in Gravesend there has long been legend of a hideous creature said to prowl the wilds of Meopham and down into the lost village of Dode (the church here is said to be the haunt of a little girl).

Described as the size of a horse, yet white and shimmering, this spectre rarely takes on a distinctive form but could it be the same apparitions said to have roamed the Pilgrims Way as far back as the 1700s and once known as the 'great dog'?

Mind you, it's probably no match for the strange man-faced dogs said to haunt Sheppey, Tenterden and Cranbrook - truly bizarre spirits said to take the form of giant hounds and yet with faces of tortured men.

But the king of the hellhounds must surely be the vile monster said to roam Deadman's Island near Sheppey - a bloodthirsty ghoul said to take the appearance of a ghostly black dog with burning eyes which was once said to have feasted on the skulls and brains of Napoleonic soldiers buried in that mist-covered soil.

Tales of headless horseman appear quite common in ghostly lore; but what I want to know is how on earth do these wandering spirits know where they are going?

One such individual which evokes images of the classic tale *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* is said to appear in the dark woods of Cobham in Gravesham.

A horse and rider (sometimes described as headless) but shrouded in flame is said to haunt Aylesford but those bereft of head are common in folklore; none more so than the so-called headless drummer boy of Fort Amherst in Chatham.

However, in spite of this legend - said to concern a young drummer boy who was decapitated on the Great Lines and forever known to roam that old fort - it would appear that the truth is in fact far stranger than fiction.

**W**hile writing a book called *Haunted Chatham* I found out that there was indeed a drummer boy named George Thomas Stock who was in fact murdered by a senior officer named James Tooth (Tooth was believed to have lent some money to the boy which was illegal to do so at the time and received a scolding from superior officers) back in 1872.

On Sunday June 30, young Stock was sitting in the library at the barracks when he was accosted by a drunken James Tooth who severed the boy's throat with a razor.

Stock perished at Melville Hospital and when Tooth was arrested and tried he stated that he would always be haunted by the crime; but neither

he or anybody else or that matter was haunted by the drummer boy.

This is merely a story of naval tradition passed down through generations to scare children and it most certainly has no real connections to Fort Amherst.

Drummer boys are very common in folklore leaving me to believe that they are simply created as fiction then embed themselves into a local community; and that is where the power of the ghost story lies.

Sadly, there aren't many who are interested to know that Pluckley does have at least 80 ghosts that no-one else knows about because enthusiasts are so hell-bent on the stories passed down over the last few decades.

A strange floating pink mist; a little girl, a phantom peasant, a ghostly tramp, a haunted bakery, a spectral white dog, etc are not going to replace the 12 (or 14) classic tales that were fabricated long ago.

Whether it's Chislehurst Caves in Bromley; Dover's ancient castle; the creepy Oxney Bottom, Hall Place at Bexley or the numerous poltergeists reported in homes across Kent, ghosts are clearly here to stay but when ghost-hunting it's always worth looking into the history of such tales first rather than taking them as fact.

However, when one considers the amount of battles, plagues, vehicle accidents, murders and other events that have taken place throughout Kent history then it should be no surprise that the county is haunted.

■ For those interested, Neil Arnold is the author of more than 15 books on local folklore and runs ghost walks at Blue Bell Hill and Rochester.



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**PIECE MEAL:** People would be surprised if they realised just how much food can be foraged, says convert Fergus Drennan

## Fergus the forager picks a novel way to prove his point

**Caroline Read** meets man who has vowed to life off the land for 12 months

**F**OR most of us, getting our weekly groceries involves little more than popping to a local supermarket and filling a trolley.

But Canterbury's Fergus Drennan sees little point in paying for industrially farmed, imported or processed food when he can get virtually everything he needs for dinner during a woodland walk.

In fact, he's so committed to the cause that he is preparing to undertake a challenge where he plans to exist purely on foraged food for an entire year.

"I think people are really surprised by the sheer abundance of things to eat that are growing wild where we live," says Mr Drennan.

"For a lot of people an overgrown

hedgerow with lots of cow parsley and various other wild plants will just be a mass of green weeds. But give me half an hour and you'll be able to distinguish four or five plants with masses of uses.

"I ask people what experience

**“People probably don't think the way that I do - they don't think about covering fungi in chocolate”**

they have of foraging and very often they say none.

"But then it comes out that yes, they have picked blackberries. And then you find they might have used a bit of elderflower. It's not really as

weird as it sounds."

He describes himself as a wild food experimentalist: part forager, part botanist, part herbalist and part Heston Blumenthal.

"People will say it wasn't so great back in the days when we had to hunt and gather for our food but actually hunter-gatherers in prehistoric times only looked for food for three hours a day.

"What takes a lot more of my time is the processing. But I also spend a lot of time experimenting and extracting.

"I don't just take a few leaves and whack up a quick salad; there's so much more to it.

"Most people probably don't think in the directions that I do - they don't think about covering fungi in chocolate or harvesting pine pollen

and mixing it with honey.

"But if you want to get the most out of it, it's just a case of how much time have you got?

"How much passion have you got for your subject?"

Public interest in wild food has peaked recently with the Michelin-starred Noma restaurant in Denmark, which specialises in foraged natural foods, bringing the movement to the attention of the media.

Mr Drennan says: "You've got bushcraft people, country-living people who are interested in getting back to the land, you've got perma-culturalists, slow food people, local food people, environmentalists, gourmet food people,

**Continued on page 29 »**





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**FIONA**, young 32yrs, seeks uncomplicated fun with chap any age or area, texts only please, I'm nervous on the phone. Box No: 445861 Text Only

**FREE** single 25yr old busty curvy black beauty, sensual, confident, interesting, looking for handsome man to call me back. Race/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414219

**BLUE** eyed slim pretty easy going hardworking lady seeking male to put the spark back into my life, must be honest, affectionate, have a GSOH and want to work at a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414217

**MO** 36yr old slim blue eyed pretty blonde looking for fun times with non-judgemental, discreet, kind male. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414215

**JANE** 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTW not too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315

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**ELAINE** 30, fit, sexy, curvy black lady, very feminine, loves dining, nights in, seeks solvent white 40's male who is passionate, loving and caring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414711

**LINDY**, 43yrs young, married with husband away. Seeks discreet gent any age/area for no strings. Box No: 4459439 Text only

**DAWN** 34, petite auburn haired female, size 12, sensitive, loving, affectionate, WLTW similar homely male who will spend lots of quality times with me for life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414499

**JENNI**, sensual lady, 23yrs seeks mature experienced man for no strings, daytime fun. Box No: 4459440 Text only

**PETITE** Asian lady, slim, N/S, seeks genuine N/S male for winning/dining, fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414515

**KAREN** 35 petite dark hair/eyed affectionate, caring, lovely female with many interests looking for genuine tic from loving soul mate, dark haired preferred. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414487

**SAMANTHA**, solvent, sensual business woman, 38yrs, travels a lot and seeks fun on the road. I'm married so please be discreet. Box No: 4459859 Text Only

**JULIE** good looking 40's female, medium build, size 12, loveable, considerate, OHAC, likes nights in/out, walking, seeking loving male without lots of baggage. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414879

**JASMIN**, 22yrs, seeks older gent for daytime meetings as she works a nightshift most days. Box No: 4459860 Text Only

**FEMALE** seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

**WIDOW** late 60's, likes most things, seeking a lonely gent, 70-75 to make me love and laugh again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414093

**68YR** old widow, seeking company of a male, 68-75 for friendship, likes cinema, theatre, nights in, meals out, seaside walks. Wants someone to help me love again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413689

**CAROLINE** blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413

**BBW** 51, caring, solvent, seeks male of similar age for fun times and socialising. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413621

**FEMALE** 38, attractive, African, single mum, seeks male, 35-50 for nights out, socialising, friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412793

**PETITE** slim blonde 39yrs, pretty blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327

**WIDOW** 70, lonely, seeking gent, 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475

**KATIE** 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412319

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**MARY** 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting, lots of interests WLTW likeminded caring, happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412169

**CLARE** 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053

**SHARON** 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who knows a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412049

**SLIM** petite, attractive brunette, 56, British/Russian origin, excellent cook/home maker, seeks cultured male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412129

**FREYA** 33 6ft blonde, loves dancing and have a good time, employed, own home, one son, seeking similar laidback guy/dad for dates, chats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412045

**IAN** 5ft 11ins, likes rock/roll, singing, making people laugh, seeking someone special. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412799

**WRITER** tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749

**BARRY** divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717

**SINGLE** young lady, slim-medium build, 24-38 sought by mature male in Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

**MALE** 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212

**JAMES** young, free and single, please give me a call if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412345

**EX** headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263

**MALE** 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235

**BESIDE** the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, leggy, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223

**45YR** old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship. Herne Bay area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993

**CHIPS** on the pier



« Continued from page 27

nutritionists, people who are interested in specific diets like the paleo diet which is popular now – all these people are interested in wild food: it's the thing they have in common.

"It's also a reaction about the sedentary lifestyle that we all lead these days and re-engaging children with the natural world. It ticks so many boxes."

Foraging is not just how Mr Drennan feeds himself, it's also how he earns his living, writing articles about wild food for websites and magazines and leading foraging courses.

**“ This obsession can almost border on neurosis and ironically it can separate you from the natural world ”**

"It's an obsession really," he admits. "My ex-girlfriend used to ask me if we could go out for a walk and this time just go for a walk – without identifying, collecting, inspecting. But of course, I couldn't."

"And finally one day she just pleaded with me and we went out for a long, long walk without picking anything. It felt like such a revelation."

"This obsession can almost border on neurosis and ironically it can separate you from the natural world. You have to make sure sometimes to just breathe deeply and enjoy it for what it is."



**PERFECT PICK-ME-UP:** Fergus Drennan plans to analyse the effects of pollution on plants during his year-long challenge to solely live off foraged food

Not everything that grows in the wild is good for you – the most obvious dangers lie in the identification of fungi and there are so many stories about people mistaking deadly toadstools for edible mushrooms.

It's something Mr Drennan takes very seriously, but still believes that the 'stay indoors' nature of modern society can get hysterical about things like poisonous mushrooms and berries – not to mention the

dangers of prickly things.

"A few years ago a school asked me about doing a project about seasonal foods with the children," he said.

"It just happened that what was in season at the time were rosehips and blackberries, so I emailed back that I'd like to take them out foraging for these things."

"Of course, I never heard back. I could hear their health and safety alarms going off from here!"

Mr Drennan is currently prepping

for his mission to live completely from foraged foods, as he plans to analyse the effects of pollution on the plants as well as eat them.

It's a huge undertaking and he estimates it will be another two or three years before he is ready to begin the challenge.

He said: "I think there needs to be a more balanced view of wild food in a contemporary setting."

"There's too much of the country-living set – and I've been one of these

people – walking around with a wicker basket, engaging in this new trend of foraging for wild food."

"What we need to look deeply at is are these foods contaminated and what can we do about it? I want to explore these areas in depth. I feel a real sense of responsibility about it."

■ **For more information about foraging, recipes and to book a place on one of his foraging courses, visit his website at [www.fergustheforager.co.uk](http://www.fergustheforager.co.uk).**



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## Rose-Marie's Eva tribute

MULTIMILLION selling songstress Rose-Marie comes to Bromley for a special tribute show to Eva Cassidy later this month.

The show at the Churchill Theatre runs from November 20-22 and charts her life.



## RSC brings Henry IV here

HENRY IV Parts I and II head to Canterbury this month for critically acclaimed performances by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The celebrated production is directed by Gregory Doran and stars Sir Antony Sher as Falstaff. The performances run from November 11 to 15 at the Marlowe Theatre.

Ticket prices from £14 to £35.50.

## Celebrating 50 hit years

THE Magic of Motown continues to celebrate one of music's most fertile periods with its 2014 Reach Out tribute tour.

It aims to recreate nearly 40 chart-toppers and takes in Chatham's Central Theatre on November 21.



## Take a 3D tour of Vatican

CINEMAS across the county will be beaming special 3D and 2D showings of a tour of the Vatican Museums on November 18.

It will take viewers on a journey through the art collection built up over centuries by the Roman Catholic Church. Cinemas taking part include Bluewater, Westwood Cross, Rochester, the Gulbenkian and Tunbridge Wells.

# Leading ladies unite for West End tour de force

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

**D**ARTFORD'S Orchard Theatre will be home for three leading ladies of the West End for one night this month.

Kerry Ellis (Wicked, We Will Rock You), Joanna Ampil (Miss Saigon, Cats) and Ria Jones (Les Miserables, Evita) will join forces to celebrate their careers in a concert called West End Women on November 18.

They will be joined by a special guest - Rory Taylor from ITV's Superstar.

This concert features songs from the best-known musicals of the past 40 years including Miss Saigon, Les Miserables, Cats, Evita, Jesus Christ Superstar and Wicked.

Kerry Ellis is well-known from her starring roles in London and on Broadway, starting with the role of Meat, in Queen's We Will Rock You.

She went on to be the first British Elphaba in the West End smash, Wicked, for which she won the 2008 Whatsonstage.com Award for 'Best Takeover in a Role'.

She then transferred to Broad-

way and played Elphaba at the Gershwin Theater for six months, where she won the Broadway.com Audience Award for Favourite Female Breakthrough Performance, before returning to London for six months in 2009.

Her other leading role credits include Nancy in Oliver! at the London Palladium, Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady, Ellen in Miss Saigon and Fantine in Les Miserables.

Joanna Ampil is an international musical theatre performer from the Philippines. Her career began aged 17, when she played the role of Kim in Cameron Mackintosh's smash-hit West End musical Miss Saigon, a role that she later went on to play in the Australian premier of the production in Sydney.

Ms Ampil's theatre credits include, Jasmine in Aladdin, Mary Magdalene in Jesus Christ Superstar, Eponine and Fantine in Les Miserables, Sheila in Hair, Mimi in Rent, Heidi in I Sing, Maria in West Side Story, Christmas Eve in Avenue Q, Maria in The Sound of Music and most recently Grizabella in the internationally touring production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Cats.

This is not the first time Ria Jones will perform at The Orchard

Theatre, as at the age of 15 she played the part of Alice Fitzwarren in the 1984 pantomime Dick Whittington, opposite Barbara Windsor, Todd Carty and Nicholas Parsons.

She then became the youngest actress ever to play the role of Eva Peron in the musical Evita. This was followed shortly by her West End debut in the musical Chess, in which she played the roles of both Svetlana and Florence. She then went on to play Grizabella in Cats at the New London theatre for two years, then Fantine in Les Miserables at Manchester's Palace Theatre, followed by the national tour, and the West End.

Her other theatre credits include Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Romance Romance, Nine, A Little Night Music, Honk, High Society, Anything Goes, Acorn Antiques, The Witches of Eastwick, Closer Than Ever, Into The Woods and 42nd Street.

The show will be at The Orchard Theatre for one night only on November 18 at 7.30pm.

For more information or to book tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the Ticket Office on 01322 220000.



**SONGBIRDS:** (From top) Joanna Ampil, Kerry Ellis and Ria Jones

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# Tears of a clown: Hi De Hi star's moving tribute

TV actor takes to the stage for solo performance capturing Laurel and Hardy's last moments together

**J**EFFERY Holland celebrates the life and works of legendary comic Stan Laurel, in his one-man show on November 15 at Broadstairs' Sarah Thorne Theatre.

Set in the bedroom of a sick Oliver Hardy, the play takes place during Laurel's visit to his dying comedy partner and close friend.

Recounting their past success as the double act Laurel and Hardy, this show takes a look at one of the greatest cinematic partnerships ever.

After Hardy's death, people who knew Laurel said he was devastated, and never fully recovered from it. He refused to perform on stage, or act in another film without his good friend.

The one-man show comes at a time that Mr Holland is celebrating

an acting career spanning 47 years.

He had no thespian aspirations until his late teens, when a friend suggested they go to local drama group for something to do.

He quickly fell in love with acting, joining a rep theatre company and then training at The Birmingham School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art.

After drama school, he worked in rep theatre for four and a half years, performing Shakespeare and drama to comedy, musicals and pantomime, then in the autumn of 1975, he joined the cast of the musical stage version of TV hit sitcom Dad's Army in which he took over the role of Cockney spiv Private Walker.



**LAUGHTER AND TEARS:** Jeffrey Holland stars as Stan Laurel in his one-man show

Despite his theatre work, Mr Holland is best-known for his television appearances.

His TV debut was in Dixon of Dock Green and was then quickly followed by a guest appearance in some episodes of the original ATV soap Crossroads.

He also had parts in The Mayor of Casterbridge with Alan Bates, Richard II, Henry V, Secret Army and several supporting roles in Dad's Army, Are You Being Served and It Ain't Half Hot Mum.

He became a household name through his role in Hi De Hi, as Spike, a lovable, well meaning and somewhat naive camp comedian. He followed this with the role of

James Twelvetees in the sitcom You Rang M'Lord and then played station master Cecil Parkin in Oh Dr Beeching.

His latest TV role was as tax inspector Clive Drinkwater in Coronation Street and he also appeared as journalist Dick Holland in the film version of Ray Cooney's hit stage farce, Run For Your Wife.

See Mr Laurel at the Sarah Thorne Theatre Company, Memorial Theatre, Hilderstone, St. Peters Road, Broadstairs CT10 2JW at 7.30pm on Saturday, November 15.

Tickets cost £12.50 in advance and to Friends of the Sarah Thorne Theatre Company, £14.50 on the door.

Please note there are no booking fees at this theatre.

## Bowie exhibition film

A DOCUMENTARY on the David Bowie exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London last year will make a special appearance on the big screen on November 18.

David Bowie is... will be screened at Bluewater and Cineworld in Rochester. It was a collection of stage costumes, photographs and rare possessions from the musician's archive. It is currently on a world tour which sees it open in Chicago in January.

## Get on your bike in style

KENT County Council, British Cycling and Sky have teamed up to bring the popular Sky Rides to the county, with a series of autumnal bike rides around the county.

They begin this Sunday with a 26-mile route around Faversham called The Gunpowder Plot. The rides continue each Sunday in November.

For more information and to book a place on the free rides, which all begin at 10am, visit [www.goskylride.com/kent](http://www.goskylride.com/kent).

## Glimpse into the past

CLASSES on medieval British history continue at the Gordon Hotel in Rochester - taking place each Tuesday between now and Christmas.

Topics covered include poetry and literature, the Plantagenet disaster, King John and the Magna Carta.

Anyone can join the group - with each session costing £6.

The classes take place at 2pm and are conducted by Toni Mount.

## Butterfly flaps back in

AWARD-WINNING producer Ellen Kent brings her production of the opera Madama Butterfly back to the county later this month.

The production, complete with traditional staging and costumes, will include local youngsters and adults joining the touring cast on stage.

It appears at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on November 20 and the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on December 7.

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# Taking walk on wild side in Zambia

## TRAVEL REVIEW: Zambia

by Sarah Marshall

**S**ITTING down to dinner with a rhino is a novel experience. I've stumbled upon this raucous feast while on a walking safari through the dusty scrubland of Zambia's Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park, located close to Livingstone.

Wildlife scout Alfred signals me to edge backwards while he assesses the rhino's mood and looks for any signs of aggression.

"If you see him tilt his tail upwards, it's time to exit," warns Alfred, one hand gripping the rifle slung over his shoulder.

Fortunately, the 14-year-old male is more engrossed in his food than the small crowd of spectators that has gathered in front of him.

Observing rhino at eye level is both exhilarating and humbling, and a reminder of how powerful and unpredictable nature can be.

Celebrating 50 years of independence this month, Zambia enjoys both political stability and a rapidly developing infrastructure which, in combination with great game and impressive landscapes, makes it a favourable option for safari.

Mosi-Oa-Tunya is Zambia's smallest park, encompassing just 66 sq km, but it still has massive appeal - mainly in the form of 10 white rhino living within its grounds.

In the 1970s, when the park opened, there were 60,000 rhino in Zambia, but by 1989, there were none. The main cause of their demise was poaching, an epidemic still sweeping across Africa at an alarming rate.

In 1992, five white rhinos were successfully trans-located from South Africa to Mosi-Oa-Tunya and the population has since doubled.

Guards take it in turns to look



**NATURAL WONDERS:** Zambia boasts an amazing abundance of wildlife and the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls

after the precious creatures, following them on foot and often allowing tourists to join them.

The park is also within easy reach of one of the world's great tourist attractions, Victoria Falls.

When I visit, the Zambezi river is swollen from heavy rainfall and the water level is high. Following a trail through parkland, I can hear the Falls as water rushes over boulders and broken branches in an unstop-pable charge.

Even further along the Zambezi, while sat on my riverside verandah at Sanctuary Retreats' Sussi & Chuma lodge, I can still hear the rumbling - although at this distance it's more of a pressing whisper.

Guests here sleep in elaborate spherical tree houses on stilts, with standalone baths and four poster beds. Rooms are connected by suspended wooden walkways often patrolled by curious vervet monkeys.

At night, hippos tramp beneath

the rooms, while elephants pass calmly through camp, often stopping to drink at the lodge's pools before swimming across the Zambezi.

After sunrise one morning, my guide Junior takes me on a boat ride along the Zambezi, looking out for wildlife on both the riverbanks and in the water.

Zambia has the biggest hippo population of any country in Africa, so it's not long before we run into a series of blubbery mounds submerged

## TRAVEL FACTS

SARAH Marshall was a guest of Sanctuary Sussi & Chuma.

A&K ([www.abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://www.abercrombiekent.co.uk); 0845 485 1141) offers a three-night stay, including all meals and drink (except premium brands), park fees, game drives, tour of Victoria Falls, local school and village tour, sundowner cruise, transfers and international flights with BA from £2,695pp.

like stepping stones in the water.

At one time, the rivers here were so full of hippos, the government had to start culling them. The skin and tails were used to make police truncheons and the meat ended up being sold as hippo sausages. "We had them nearly every day on a barbecue," Junior recalls.

Given the abundance of water in the area, it's surprising to discover that the nearby Nakatindi Village only recently received funding for boreholes. When I arrive in the village, I'm immediately besieged by children wanting to hold my hand and pestering for sweets. Mavuto, a 28-year-old who has been given the role of village guide, takes care of tourists and shows them around.

The first thing he shows me is local homes; spherical mud huts thatched with elephant grass. With barely any room in the dark chambers, people spend most of their time outside, although living only a few kilometres from the national park, the sad reality is that most villagers see very few animals in their wild environment.

There are plans though, to take children on trips to visit Mosi-Oa-Tunya's 10 white rhino. After all, it is the next generation who will benefit.

## Film Reviews by Damon Smith



### MR TURNER (12A, 150 mins) Drama/Romance

Release: Now

TIMOTHY Spall stars in Mike Leigh's impeccably crafted biopic of celebrated painter Joseph Mallord William Turner.

The film covers the last 25 years of the artist's life, showing his relationship with his father William (Paul Jesson) and his excursions to

Margate, where he meets Mrs Booth (Marion Bailey) and her husband (Karl Johnson) renting a room from the couple so he can paint seascapes.

The burgeoning relationship between Turner and Mrs Booth sweetens William's bitter passing and Turner continues to clash with the artistic establishment.

A glorious period piece, with ravishing costumes and a haunting score from composer Gary Yershon.

Rating 9/10

### NIGHTCRAWLER (15, 117 mins) Thriller/Action

Release: Now

SET IN modern-day Los Angeles, Dan Gilroy's directorial debut is a delicious satire starring Jake Gyllenhaal as a loner called Louis Bloom, who exploits human misery for personal gain.

His 'work' involves capturing gruesome footage of critically

injured victims to sell to TV news stations, who are hungry for raw footage.

"If it bleeds, it leads," is his motto.

Louis approaches Nina Romina (Rene Russo), ratings-hungry editor of the graveyard shift at one news station.

Rene explains that her perfect newscast is "a screaming woman running down the street with her throat cut" so Louis hires an inexperienced protege called Rick (Riz Ahmed) to capture violence in grisly close-up.

Nightcrawler is an audacious debut that captures LA at its worst.

Rating 8/10

### HORNS (15, 120 mins) Romance/Thriller/Horror

Release: Now

IN Alexandre Aja's quirky supernatural thriller Daniel Radcliffe plays Ig Perrish, who's in love with Merrin Williams (Juno Temple).



Their romance blossoms in childhood but as Ig is poised to go down on bended knee, Merrin orchestrates a very public break-up. The following morning, police discover Merrin's body in the forest and a drunken Ig in his car with no memory of the night before.

Merrin's father Dale (David Morse) makes clear that he believes Ig is the killer.

Ig regains consciousness with a

raging hangover and discovers that he has a pair of horns growing out of his head, he realises he can exploit his new-found powers to uncover the circumstances of Merrin's death and unmask a murderer.

Aja revels in the depravity of a close-knit community, which assumes people are guilty until proven innocent.

Rating 7/10



**T**RICK and treaters may not be the only dangerous subjects lurking outside your house this Halloween - you could find something equally spiky and poisonous in your back garden.

Some plants can sting, burn, cut you or emit a foul odour, and among the most prickly of plants is the hawthorn.

As a thorny hedge, it will deter even the most persistent burglar. The thorns of mature plants can pierce through tough gloves - it even features among the Metropolitan Police list of top shrubs for deterring thieves. Other prickly candidates include creeping juniper, common holly, firethorn (pyracantha), juniper and purple berberis.

Then there are the plants which don't smell quite as sweet as you'd like. In fact they stink. Take the titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) and the dragon arum (*Dracunculus vulgaris*). Both smell like rotting corpses when in flower, to attract pollinating flies.

The titan arum, also known as the 'corpse flower' is nevertheless beautiful, growing to 3m tall, its gigantic crimson flower spanning 3m and is a great magnet for pollinating insects. You won't find it in the average British garden, though, as it prefers the rainforests of Sumatra as its natural habitat, although you can admire it in the exotic sections of botanical gardens such as the Eden Project in Cornwall and at Kew.



**THORNY ISSUE:** (Left to right) Titan arum, firehorn and a creeping juniper branch can look wonderful in your garden - but can cause a host of problems too

## Beware the ghoulish greenery

Then there's *Iris foetidissima*, whose leaves have a pungent scent but which bursts open to reveal brilliant orange, sometimes red, seeds. They cling to the pods throughout the winter until the spring, and are ignored by birds.

Other stinkers include *Eucomis bicolor*, the pineapple lily, the dead horse arum (*Helicodiceros muscivorus*) and the imposing crown

imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*).

No Halloween would be complete without its share of witches, whose potions have been linked with some of our most common plants.

Hemlock is highly poisonous and closely linked with witchcraft. It doesn't look significantly different from the hedge parsley or cow parsley which grows along roads, ditches, trails, or the edges of fields.

Its white flower heads resemble those of parsnips, carrots or angelica and all plant parts are poisonous, with the seeds containing the highest concentration of poison, causing toxic reactions.

Deadly nightshade, also known as *Belladonna*, is another common plant often found in hedgerows and was one of the main ingredients in witches' brews during the Middle

Ages, while blackthorn is often referred to as a witch's tree. As late as the 1940s, anyone seen to carry a blackthorn walking stick was suspected of being a witch.

There is beauty in all, even the most sinister of subjects. So we hope you had a Happy Halloween - but just remember the plants with slightly darker properties, hidden in the nooks and crannies of your garden.



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## Council profiting from our misery

YOUR piece on the Chilmington Green planning meeting says it all: the arrogance of our elected representatives is breathtaking.

A tide of concrete is set to wash over the Weald of Kent, and it is all about money.

Ashford Borough Council will rake in millions in Government grants; the landowners will rake in millions from selling their land; the property developers will rake in millions from the sale of the houses; and the people of Ashford will pay the price for decades to come.

Remember this next May; it was the Conservatives who decided it would be a splendid idea to concrete over Chilmington Green.

**Ralph Carpenter**, Great Chart

## Concerns fell on too many deaf ears

THE destruction of Chilmington Green for developer and landowner profit makes no sense for the people of Ashford. There are other, if less profitable, sites.

The beautiful farmland surrounding the hamlet, its heritage and the environment should have been converted into a conservation area not a building site, a suburban commuter sprawl.

I am a member of Ashford council and have expressed my concerns over the years, particularly on the severe impact on existing residents.

I viewed the planning application document with an open mind to see if, after all the arguments, there really were good reasons for the development on this site.

I concluded that against all the damaging aspects of the development there were few, and so voted to refuse the application. Only one of two councillors to do so – three abstained. There will be further difficult decisions to come but I hope that all councillors will stand up and be counted.

**Peter Davison**,  
 leader, Ashford Independents

## Let's make waves over defunct jetty

NOW that the demolition of the Kingsnorth power station has begun has anyone asked the question about the jetty and pierhead?

If the power station does not require coal then this structure becomes redundant and we are left with any eyesore similar to the

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Left high and dry by Green developments

I REFER to your article and leader on the new town at Chilmington Green approved by Ashford Borough Council (KoS 25/10).

With outline planning approval for 5,750 houses, schools, shops and leisure facilities, where will the water come from for some 20,000 new residents?

Even though a new reservoir is planned for Broad Oak, Canterbury, this will take some 25 years to construct and possibly three to five years to fill.

The only other reservoir of any significance in the south east is located at Bewl Water and for

those of you with short memories, the water levels dropped to record levels in 2011/12 and the entire region was weeks away from standpipes and buckets for the foreseeable future.

Even the aquifers were draining quickly and salinity ingress was a grave concern.

We have just experienced the 'driest September on record' and prospects for a water shortage in the south east next summer are high.

The sums quite simply fail to add up.

**S Dacre**, Bethersden

original Berry Wiggins jetty and pierhead which has fallen into decay and remains a blot on the landscape.

What would be of real benefit to the boating community is to remove the pier and give us back the full width of the river and the shingle beaches which were a major part of Sunday afternoon outings on the river, prior to the construction of the jetty.

If they do not take away the jetty then who will be liable for its upkeep since we do not want another dangerous structure on the river?

**Colin Fuller**, chairman,  
 Medway Watersports Trust

## Cookery shows a pain for the NHS

I THINK the NHS crisis is not being helped by all these TV cooking programmes.

People are cooking and eating more. The shows should be renamed the Great British Weight On.

**Alan Clifton**, Tonbridge

## Minister points us in right direction

PERHAPS the words 'under siege' more accurately describe the current state of panic among Conservative MPs ahead of the Rochester and Strood by-election?

Any signs of 'swamping' here in west Kent must be well hidden.

And agriculture minister Liz Truss has also pointed out we need farm labourers from other EU countries to harvest our Kent orchards and fields.

**Dr Alan Bullion**, Lib Dem  
 prospective parliamentary  
 candidate for Sevenoaks and  
 Swanley

## Pub makeover is not super for all

I, ALONG with many others, am disgusted and appalled with the proposals to turn the Henry Simmonds pub in Borough Green into a Sainsbury's supermarket.

It will destroy local businesses, particularly the small independent shops such as the greengrocers and the butchers who are the last of a dying breed of traditional traders.

**Rosie Johnston**, Igtham

## Insurance query needs an answer

"I WAS treated as any other member of the public"... so says Ann Barnes (KoS, last week).

If so, why hasn't the no insurance issue been determined and why the need for an inquiry?

It is a simple question of fact: did she have the appropriate insurance cover for the particular use of the vehicle in question on the date in question? Yes or no?

Or am I missing something?

**John Greenhill**, by email

## Seeing through this smokescreen

DEVON Clinical Commissioning Group was voting this week to stop routine operations for the overweight and smokers.

The fact the largest CCG in the country is having to come up with such measures highlights the scale of the financial squeeze facing the NHS as a result of constant cost-cutting.

It's well known that the risk of complications from surgery is increased if a patient is overweight or a smoker so I can understand why people should be encouraged to prepare themselves in the best possible way for an operation.

But to make treatment conditional on giving up smoking or losing weight sounds like another name for rationing and is merely a way of creating a barrier for access to care for certain sections of the population.

Are they really planning to turn away an overweight person or a smoker who needs surgery?

It's also very worrying that they are talking about raising the threshold for qualifying for cataract and hernia operations too.

Unless urgent action is taken, we will see more CCGs being forced to ration services and patients will suffer.

**Dr Paul J Hobday**, Prospective  
 Parliamentary Candidate for  
 Maidstone and the Weald

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

**Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.





## North Downs at Hollingbourne

by **Victoria Tythe,**  
from Hollingbourne

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## Help us to make the most of Kent's money

Like all councils across the country we are facing more demands on our resources and less funding.

We've estimated we need to save an additional £206m over the next three years.

**Visit [kent.gov.uk/budget](http://kent.gov.uk/budget)  
and have your say**

- on how we save
- on how we spend



## Your views count

Please respond by 28 November 2014

*[Kent.gov.uk/budget](http://Kent.gov.uk/budget)*





## Open day to shed more light...

ARE you interested in becoming a foster carer? Or do you already have experience as a foster carer?

Then why not pay a visit to a special open day which takes place later this month and speak to the experts about what is involved and how you could assist.

Benecare Fostering, based in Boughton-under-Blean, near Faversham, is a well established organisation with a small enough team to offer you not only a personal service but also large enough to support you to ensure you can make a positive difference and enhance children's opportunities to achieve the best possible outcome.

All its foster carers benefit from free membership of the Fostering Network.

To take what could be your first step to becoming a carer, or simply to learn more about the challenges and opportunities, why not visit the Benecare Fostering regional headquarters on Wednesday, November 12?

You will get the chance to meet the team - Sally, Lyn, Stella and Dawn, and see how you could develop a career in fostering. Refreshments will be provided.

Benecare has good working relationships with the local authorities to whom it provides both fostering and residential provisions.

Visit between noon and 2pm or 5pm-8pm at Benecare Fostering, The Thatch, Stokers Hill, Boughton-under-Blean ME13 9AB. Or call 01227 722151 or visit [www.benecarefostering.co.uk](http://www.benecarefostering.co.uk).

## A brighter future based on firm family foundations

SINCE 1997, Chrysalis Care has been providing high quality foster care for children and young people.

Its focus has always been committed to transforming lives, believing that children deserve the very best opportunities in life.

As an Ofsted rated 'outstanding' organisation, something that hasn't changed over the years is our knowledge that it's our diverse foster carer team that enables us to fulfil our ethos.

It's foster carers who - with our help, support, guidance, training and 24 hour, 365 days 'on call' facility - provide children and young people with a stable and nurturing environment.

Every child deserves to be nurtured, cared for and kept safe, whatever their background or reason for being in the care system.

Currently we provide families for more than 100 children.

Children come into the care system for all sorts of reasons with needs that are individual to their experiences, so we need foster carers from a range of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds, mixed age groups and both single people and couples.

We need people with open minds and open hearts, who truly want to make a difference and recognise that fostering will no doubt transform their own lives too.

If you want to know more about becoming a



fully trained foster carer, have a spare room and also room in your life to offer to a child or young person, we are waiting to hear from you and to answer your queries.

Please call 0208 2982800, email [info@chrysaliscare.org](mailto:info@chrysaliscare.org) or visit the website at [www.chrysaliscarefostering.org](http://www.chrysaliscarefostering.org).



## FOSTERING OPEN EVENING

Calling all experienced foster carers and those interested in becoming foster carers: Come along to our Regional Office on Wednesday 12 November at:

Benecare Fostering  
 The Thatch  
 Stokers Hill, Boughton-under-Blean  
 Faversham ME13 9AB  
 Between: 12 - 2 or 5 - 8pm

Tel: 01227 752151  
 or e-mail: [headoffice@benecareltd.co.uk](mailto:headoffice@benecareltd.co.uk)  
[www.benecarefostering.co.uk](http://www.benecarefostering.co.uk)

## COULD YOU FOSTER?



Chrysalis Care, an **OUTSTANDING** fostering provider, is seeking those interested in becoming a foster carer, and joining our outstanding agency in providing first class care for children and young people.

You don't have to be married, you don't need to be employed, you don't need a big house, just a spare room and space in your life to help a vulnerable child to achieve.

As a Chrysalis Care foster carer you will receive:

- 24 hour professional support
- Excellent remuneration
- Comprehensive training
- Access to a range of children's services



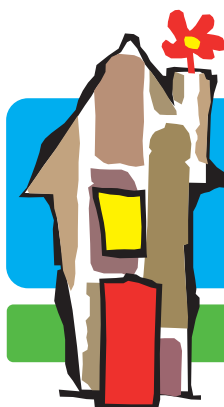
We are also looking for those interested in providing a home to a **parent and child, teenagers, children with disabilities** and carers interested in **remand fostering**.



For more information and application:  
 Tel: 020 8298 2800 Email: [info@chrysaliscare.org](mailto:info@chrysaliscare.org)  
 Web: [www.chrysaliscarefostering.org](http://www.chrysaliscarefostering.org)







## The Homefinding & Fostering

Agency

### Setting a target for giving hope

DID you know that there are over 2,000 children 'in care' in Kent?

These are children placed with foster carers.

Most of the children will have been removed from their birth families through a court order because they were deemed to be at risk. Nearly all of them will have experienced some trauma and abuse. For any child this could mean huge problems.

The story does not end there though. The great news is that foster carers are exceptional people in this world and these children are fortunate enough to be placed with them.

Foster carers help children to overcome difficulties and help them go on to achieve their potential.

At The Homefinding and Fostering Agency we specialise in preparing, training and supporting those who think they can foster to do so successfully.

However, The Fostering Network reports an annual shortfall of foster homes for around 10,000 children. To address this we have launched a local campaign in Kent to recruit 15 more families to foster for us in time for our 20th anniversary next year.

We will be hosting an afternoon or evening session at our offices on November 24 from 4pm so anyone who thinks they might be interested in fostering can come and meet the team and some of our current foster carers over tea and coffee. See details on the advert below.

## Follow the Caldecott way and join a supportive team

MANY of our young people have told us that their placement with a Caldecott foster carer has changed their life for the better.

By providing a stable, loving home for young people who may have moved home many times in their young lives, our carers have a transformative effect on the outcomes for vulnerable young people.

Caldecott Fostering was set up specifically to cater for young people who needed a higher level of support and was a natural offshoot of the Caldecott Foundation, an organisation with 100 years of experience helping the most vulnerable children in the UK through its work in providing residential care homes and the Caldecott School.

Because of this, Caldecott Fostering has a huge amount of resources to call upon and we believe that this makes us unique in the sector.

As a Foster Carer with Caldecott Fostering you join a community of carers that meet regularly and support each other.

Caldecott Fostering decided from the beginning that it would become established enough to offer security, but small enough to care and at the same time still offer the personal touch.

We offer a comprehensive package of training throughout the year and regular events that bring together our community of carers and children to share their experiences.

Becoming a foster carer with Caldecott



Fostering could be a life changing decision not only for the young people in your care but also for you. As many of our carers have stated: "It was the best thing I ever did."

To find out more give us a call for a friendly chat on 0300 303 8794 or email us on [hello@caldecottfostering.co.uk](mailto:hello@caldecottfostering.co.uk).



## 24/11/2014 FOSTERING INFORMATION EVENT

Meet Foster Carers and Social Workers.

Homefinding and Fostering exists to prepare, train and support foster carers. Come and find out more.



Contact: [Lisa.Sutton@homefindingandfostering.co.uk](mailto:Lisa.Sutton@homefindingandfostering.co.uk)

[www.homefindingandfostering.co.uk](http://www.homefindingandfostering.co.uk)

Want to be part  
of Joshua's  
future success  
in life?

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new profession  
and foster for  
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training, expert support  
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Call or email Lisa

THE HOMEFINDING AND  
FOSTERING AGENCY

67 College Road  
Maidstone  
ME15 6SX  
01622 765646

4 - 6pm or 6 - 8pm

## Could you be a Foster Carer?



### What we offer

Do you have an interest in looking after children? Would you like to do a fulfilling job in your own home?

As a career and lifestyle, fostering children enables you to make a real difference in helping young people reach their full potential.

The Caldecott Foundation is a Charity that has over 100 years of experience in helping the most vulnerable children. Our excellent matching processes mean we work with you every step of the way to ensure a successful placement. We are currently recruiting Foster Carers in Kent and the South East.

Could you be a Foster Carer with us? Call us for a friendly chat and further advice.

- Generous fees of up to £450 a week
- Holiday Allowances
- Paid Respite breaks
- 24hr support from Social Workers
- Regular training
- Opportunities for a Diploma
- Support from our Psychologist



Caldecott Fostering

0300 303 8794

[hello@caldecottfostering.co.uk](mailto:hello@caldecottfostering.co.uk)

[www.caldecottfostering.co.uk](http://www.caldecottfostering.co.uk)





## House of hope at Hawkinge Hill

HAWKINGE House is a 92-bed purpose built state-of-the-art home providing nursing care situated at the top of Hawkinge Hill.

Set within four acres of grounds on Hurricane Way, near Folkestone, it has three floors providing separate accommodation for various levels of both physical frailty and dementia.

We are very proud of our thriving social and recreational activities including our Hawkinge Howlers choir which has been featured on ITV Meridian news and BBC Radio Kent as part of the National Dementia Awareness Week.

We work closely with our partners throughout Kent to achieve the best possible outcomes for our service users. We are fully compliant with the Care Quality Commission and enjoy

our relationships with the Ladder to the Moon project promoting excellence in dementia care and ENRICH research projects to enhance the quality of our work.

We have currently many initiatives that we have launched in order to provide our service users, families and loved ones a more meaningful experience within our home such as our 'BUDDIE' programme and 'Life Reflection' project.

We welcome our friends and families from the local community to come and visit us and spend some time and see for yourself all that we have to offer.

For details, call 01303 890100 or visit the website at [www.hawkingehouse.co.uk](http://www.hawkingehouse.co.uk).

## Why volunteers are key to community projects

SO OFTEN it is the case that those so vital to enhancing our local communities, to providing a valuable resource for those in need of a helping hand, are unpaid volunteers.

According to new research by Join In, the charity that helps connect local sports clubs and volunteers, that value is an eye-watering £52 billion.

In GDP terms, that's on par with the energy sector, and four times greater than agriculture. Think it sounds too good to be true?

That's exactly what Join In thought when they first saw the figures. But the top economists and The National Council for Voluntary Organisations' research team and The Institute for Volunteering Research, who all scrutinised the findings, agreed that the sums stand up - and at the core of the equation is health and wellbeing.

It's well established that people who volunteer report higher levels of happiness than those who don't (10 per cent have higher self-esteem, 15 per cent worry less, 87 per cent agree life has more meaning...).

This new research takes things much further, looking at the immediate and knock-on improvements to volunteers' health and wellbeing - as well as that of those able to participate in activities thanks to the volunteers - and calculates an overall financial worth for

this, which adds up to £2,974 each.

"This isn't fluffy stuff," says Lord Gus O'Donnell, chairman of Frontier Economics and former cabinet secretary. "This is very important, solid economics."

It's important, he believes, that a successful society isn't only defined by the health of its GDP, but by the health and wellbeing of its people.

He references US presidential candidate Robert Kennedy's 1968 speech.

In which the brother of JFK said "gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play... the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials... it measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning... it measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile."

Join In, as well as their partners and supporters, hope that giving the value of volunteering more economic weight will help encourage more people to get involved, and more private sector companies and organisations to get behind it, making it easier for people to volunteer, whether that's through more training or being allowed time off work.

## WOODCHURCH HOUSE

Nursing Home & Care Suites



### A home for life for those in need of care

Woodchurch House provides accommodation and nursing care for residents in their own private suites. Full 24 hour nursing care is available for all residents. Residents' spouses can also be accommodated, so that couples can stay together even when one develops the need for on-going care.

One of the philosophies at the heart of Woodchurch House is to provide relationship-centred care. Fostering and nurturing relationships between residents, their family and friends and the healthcare professionals who work in and visit the home is an integral part of residents care.

- 24 Hour Nursing Care • Medical Care • Bariatric Service • Pastoral Care
- Home Cooked Food • Online Residents Care Plans & Daily Reports
- Hairdressing Salon • GPs on Call • Relationship Centred Care
- Full Activity Programme including Trips Out

[www.woodchurchhouse.co.uk](http://www.woodchurchhouse.co.uk)

Email: [enquires@woodchurchhouse.co.uk](mailto:enquires@woodchurchhouse.co.uk)

Tel: 01233 861602

Brook Street, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent TN26 3SN

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Carewatch is a leading provider of home care services.

For over 20 years we have been helping people across the UK to maintain their independence and wellbeing within the comfort of their own homes and communities.

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- ✓ Live in care
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- ✓ Respite Care
- ✓ Mental Health Support
- ✓ Learning Disabilities Support
- ✓ Physical Disabilities support
- ✓ Elderly care
- ✓ Home from hospital service
- ✓ Rehabilitation and recovery



### - Choice, Support & Independence -

Caring for the whole family - Your guide to independent living at home

Maidstone 01622 681550 | Medway 01634 913550 | Ashford 01233 885973

[info@carewatchmaidstone.co.uk](mailto:info@carewatchmaidstone.co.uk)







**VOLUNTEERS:** Unlock the value of volunteering to help boost yourself and your community

## Providing the platform to live a fulfilling life at home

AS PART of Methodist Homes (MHA), the national charity providing accommodation, support and care services to 16,000 older people, Folkestone Live at Home is glad to offer practical and social support to older people living in their own homes within the community.

With our range of activities and services, we aim to promote independence and well-being, and tackle loneliness and isolation.

Our members, who range in age from 60 to 96, have told us what a difference Live at Home has made to their lives.

Activities are weekly – our fish and chip lunches are especially popular, and everyone enjoyed a recent trip to the Westwood Cross shopping centre, which some people might have struggled to reach otherwise.

Our befrienders provide company and conversation, and our signposting service assures that if we can't answer your question, we'll find somebody who can.

Coming up soon, we have a number of events planned, including film screenings, coffee mornings, a Christmas party and a trip to Rochester Christmas market.

We are very grateful to the Roger de Haan Charitable Trust, the Ronald Cruikshank Trust and our national funding, which help us to provide our services at a high quality and excellent value for money.



If you would like to find out more about joining Folkestone Live at Home, or are interested in volunteering – perhaps as a befriender or a driver – we would love to hear from you.

Contact us on 01303 241551 or find out more at [www.mha.org.uk](http://www.mha.org.uk).



**“Hawkinge House** care suites - a home for life for those in need of care”

Follow them from website  
**[hawkingehouse.co.uk](http://hawkingehouse.co.uk)**

Hawkinge House Hurricane Way, Hawkinge,  
 Folkestone, Kent CT18 7SS  
 Tel: 01303 890100

### FOLKESTONE LIVE AT HOME SCHEME

Live at home was established in 1989 by MHA, a charity providing care homes, housing and support services for older people throughout Britain. Over 50 Live At Home Schemes now operate across the UK, enabling older people to maintain their independence and live more fulfilled lives. Established nearly 70 years ago, MHA now delivers a range of services to over 16,000 individuals

Live at Home Schemes offer services and support to help older people lead independent, active and fulfilled lives. We aim to help you to maintain your independence while offering opportunities for companionship, trusted support and advice when you need it.

We have services to support you in your home as well as group activities in a place where you can be welcomed and among friends.

Above all, you will know that there is always someone to turn to for help, advice or a simple chat.

**For just £1 a week, which is less than the cost of a loaf of bread, you will receive:**

- A weekly telephone call for general support
- Advice or information on local services, benefits or referral to advice
- Quarterly newsletter • Regular visits from a befriender
- Access to a range of support services

**You can choose the services which best suit you. Staff and Volunteers will be here to help with questions and concerns. We also offer:**

- Men's Club • Fish & Chip Lunches & Film Afternoons • Many more activities and events

*There is a charge for these activities and for transport if required. We also have events at different holidays throughout the year*

**FOLKESTONE LIVE AT HOME SCHEME is run by a Community Service Manager and Co-ordinator.**

**Our services are provided by a dedicated team of volunteers. New volunteers are always needed to join our team and help with the above activities. We provide training and support and most of all our volunteers bring new meaning to the phrase “GOOD NEIGHBOURS”**

**To find out more about MHA's Live At Home Scheme in Folkestone or to become a Volunteer please phone us on:**  
**Telephone: 01303 241551**  
*(if you are met with an answerphone please don't be put off, leave a message and we will call you back)*

**You can Email us at: [scheme.folkestone@mha.org.uk](mailto:scheme.folkestone@mha.org.uk)**  
 Our Office Address is: Grace Court, Grace Hill, Folkestone, Kent. CT20 1HG

**Feel free to attend an event, then if you are interested you can join free for 1 month**



# Holidays

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## BRUGES, VALKENBURG, GHENT & BRUSSELS CHRISTMAS PARTY RIVER CRUISE

Escorted Holiday by Rail  
5 days semi all inclusive  
Departs 24 November, 2014

FREE  
DRINKS

OVER  
40s  
ONLY

PRIVATE  
CHARTER

QUOTE:  
PC11-4-KOS

Join us for a relaxing river cruise taking-in: Valkenburg with its unique Christmas Caves; beautiful Bruges with its wonderful festive atmosphere and markets; Hasselt, a charming Belgian town with a festive winterland; lovely Ghent, once medieval Europe's second largest city; and Brussels, the Belgian capital. GN Voyages is exclusively chartering the popular mps Princess again with great hospitality and entertainment on board. Beer, wine by the glass, Dutch spirits and soft drinks are included at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar. Morning and afternoon coffee and cakes and late snacks are also included.

**Price includes:** Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Brussels • 4 nights full-board on the mps Princess sharing a twin-bed outside cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Welcome cocktail on arrival • Beer, wine, choice of 2 Dutch spirits & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea & cakes • Buffet breakfast & lunch • Dinner served at your table • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Transfers abroad

"Everything was  
1st class, would  
do it again."  
Mr & Mrs Scott

"Just wanted to say thank you  
for another great Christmas  
market trip."  
Mr & Mrs Kennedy

### Princess Fan Club

"We thoroughly enjoyed our  
holiday and the trip was over  
much too soon."  
Mrs Church

"The break was excellent. The  
boat and crew fantastic. A1  
service - would like to do it  
again." Mrs Sharp



4 DAYS  
SEMI ALL  
INCLUSIVE  
FROM  
**£379PP**

## BELGIUM, HOLLAND & VALKENBURG CHRISTMAS PARTY RIVER CRUISE

Escorted Holiday by Rail  
4 days semi all inclusive  
Departs 21 November, 2014

FREE  
DRINKS

OVER  
40s  
ONLY

QUOTE:  
PC11-3-  
KOS

Join us for a fun-packed river cruise taking-in Brussels, Hasselt with its Winter Wonderland, Maastricht and Valkenburg with its unique Christmas market caves. There's also an option to visit Aachen Christmas Markets in Germany. GN Voyages is chartering the popular mps Princess again with great hospitality, entertainment and free drinks.

**Price includes:** Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from St Pancras to Brussels (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 3 nights full-board cruise sharing a twin bed rear cabin on main deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine & choice of 2 Dutch spirits served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea & cakes • Buffet breakfast & lunch • Dinner served at your table • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Transfers abroad



SAVE  
UP TO  
**£240**  
PER  
COUPLE

## CHRISTMAS MARKETS SPECTACULAR RIVER CRUISE - BRUGES, BRUSSELS & LILLE

Escorted Holiday by Rail  
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1 December, 2014 - PC12-1-KOS

FREE  
DRINKS

OVER  
40s  
ONLY

Join us for a fun-packed river cruise taking-in three great Christmas Markets. In Lille, Northern France, the main square is transformed into a winter wonderland with a giant Christmas ferris wheel and dozens of stalls. Bruges with its wonderful festive atmosphere and markets is just a short stroll from the ship's mooring and you'll have a full day and night to enjoy this Belgian gem. In the Belgian capital, Brussels, the Christmas Market has been hailed as 'Europe's most original' by British tour operators.

**Price includes:** Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Brussels • 3 nights full-board on the mps Princess sharing a twin-bed outside cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Welcome cocktail on arrival • Beer, wine, choice of 2 Dutch spirits & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea & cakes • Buffet breakfast & lunch • Dinner served at your table • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Transfers abroad



By Steve Loader  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

» Read more of Steve's  
motoring reviews in...

KENT LIFE

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**DRIVING TO A NEW BEAT:** Nissan's all-new five-door Pulsar remains compact despite having a huge cabin and the longest wheelbase in its class

## Nissan hatches new family star

Once labelled boring, rejuvenated Nissan now feels bold enough to re-enter the family hatchback sector it abandoned back in 2006, writes **Steve Loader**

**N**ISSAN quashed its 'boring' prefix in 2007 when it launched the Qashqai – a great car and an exciting new market approach.

Part people carrier or MPV, part 4x4, part family hatch and a good drive too, it answered many confused family motorists' prayers.

Nissan was also able to concentrate on churning out one car instead of three that had struggled to cut it with buyers: the Primera fleet/family model, Almera Tino MPV and Almera family hatchback.

A few years on though, facing a market where many buyers are downsizing, Nissan has re-entered the family hatch sector with the all-new five-door Pulsar (from £15,995) – in showrooms now.

The Japanese marque has clearly taken a long hard look at what buyers want: many will be fleet/company car 'user choosers' who want tax efficiency, while private buyers demand space and low running costs; flashy handling and sportiness come second in both cases, though Nissan will address

this later with a Nismo performance flagship.

So the new car's highlights are a huge cabin helped by the longest wheelbase (2,700mm) in class, above average legroom, and a powerful yet frugal all-turbo-charged engine range with road tax-exempt CO2 emissions from 94g/km and a combined cycle 78mpg for the 110PS (108bhp) 1.5 dCi diesel version set to be the company car favourite.

However, low mileage users should check out the more cheaply accessed petrol turbo options.

Despite its large interior and full five-seat capacity though, the Pulsar remains a compact car (length 4,385mm) with fluid good looks inspired by the latest Qashqai.

Nissan claims the premium look continues inside with the kind of attention to detail that has made the second generation Qashqai such a threat to SUVs/ crossovers produced by the German executive brands, and including access to the brand's acclaimed Safety Shield technology.



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The ŠKODA Octavia vRS delivers the perfect combination of sportiness, space and functionality. It showcases a host of engineering innovations, a dramatic new design and pulse-quickenning performance. The new TSI and TDI engines available on the third-generation model offer phenomenal performance whilst the vRS's best ever fuel economy figures means that power doesn't compromise efficiency.

And now, thanks to our latest finance offer it's even easier to get your hands on a brand new ŠKODA Octavia vRS Hatch, available with ŠKODA Finance.

**For more information or to book a test-drive, contact Motorline ŠKODA today**

### Solutions representative Personal Contract Plan\* finance for Octavia vRS Hatch Black Edition 2.0 TSI 220PS based on 3 years, 10,000 miles per annum

Duration	36 months	Option to purchase fee***	£60
35 monthly payments of	£289	Total amount payable	£26,600.26
Deposit	£6,803.05	Total amount of credit	£16,951.95
Retail cash price	£23,755	Representative APR	7.3%
Acceptance fee**	£125	Interest rate	3.5%
Optional final payment	£9,622.21	Excess mileage†	7.2ppm

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**www.motorline.co.uk/skoda**

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**#At the end of a Solutions Personal Contract Plan (PCP) agreement there are three options: i) retain the vehicle - pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle; ii) return the vehicle (you may be charged for excess wear and tear); or iii) replace: part-exchange the vehicle, subject to status.**

Retail Sales only \*\* Payable as first payment \*\*\* Payable with optional final payment. † Depending on agreed annual mileage. Available to 18's and over. Offer available for vehicles ordered by 31 December 2014 and delivered by 31 March 2015 from participating retailers. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Accurate at time of publication. ŠKODA Finance, Freeport ŠKODA Finance.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Octavia range: Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 52.3 (5.4) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined 44.1 (6.4) - 88.3 (3.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the Octavia range are 149-85 g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



# Wear your vRS badge with great pride

Skoda's latest Octavia performance flagship is a delight to behold and drive, with all the practicality of mainstream models too, as **Steve Loader** happily discovered

**H**AVING the latest, or a personalised/customised registration plate has never been a priority for me, but I spotted one the other day that made me stop and think.

It was a sporty Skoda Octavia wearing a plate including 'vRS' and spoke volumes about how far the once much-maligned Czech brand has come.

Skoda's vRS performance badge would once have been dismissed as 'a poor man's GTi'. Not any more it seems - here it was being worn with pride, and rightly so.

The Octavia itself epitomises Skoda's revival under the stewardship of the VW group and the vRS - available as a hatch or a smart estate - is a true halo car for the range and very affordable too.

Octavias start at just £16,310 and, as a sort of supersize C-segment or family hatch model rather direct competitor to D-segment cars like the Ford Mondeo, it's a lot of car for the cash. It's not a big step up either to the vRS line-up, priced from £23,755.

What you get is a GTi that is cheaper yet roomier than obvious rivals - so, never mind any lingering



badge snobbery, just wake up and smell the coffee.

In this smart third generation guise - launched last year - the vRS looks like a performance hatch, with its blacked out chrome, sharp-suited alloys, and coloured brake calipers, but there's understated classiness too.



On the road, steering feedback is sharp and it grips well, yet the ride is not unduly harsh for a performance-orientated model.

You have the choice of 2.0-litre petrol or diesel - the latter, delivering 184PS (182 bhp) saves fuel through its official combined 61.4mpg

(six-speed manual version) and the engine delivers lots of low down punch. You'll also pay a surprisingly low premium of less than £300 to have it instead of a 220PS (217bhp) petrol turbo, but that's the version - as tested here - that delights with its free-revving pulling power across

## Skoda Octavia vRS

Price:	from £23,775
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	VW Golf GTI

the range, though an official combined 41.6mpg looks optimistic.

Both engines are also available with the VW group's slick DSG automatic/manual gearbox, but this adds around £1,400 to the price and dulls some of the vRS's talents.

The new generation Octavia's longer wheelbase and greater width are evident in the roomier cabin, while the estate's total cargo area in seats down mode exceeds the Ford Mondeo and VW Passat - both larger cars.

Fixtures and fittings have Skoda's usual solidity and no-nonsense ergonomics, but it is a tad gloomy and uninspired inside; externally, Skoda got the performance hatch stance about right, but the car could use more 'GTi treatment' inside.

But then many GTis have tripped over the fine line between gloomy and tacky.

# Steal

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Perrys Price  
**£15,995**



2014/64 Zafira 1.8 Exclusiv A/C,  
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**Swale  
ACADEMIES  
TRUST**

**The Westlands School Teaching School Alliance**

*Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College, Meopham School, The North School, Westlands Primary School, Regis Manor Primary School and South Borough Primary School*

**School Direct Teacher Training for the 2015/16 Academic Year**

Swale Academies Trust, working in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, invites high quality graduates interested in a career in teaching to consider the School Direct Training Programme 2015/16. We have places available under both School Direct training routes, some salaried and some which may be eligible for a training bursary or scholarship, subject to status.

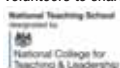
Information about training and the application process is available on our website:  
[www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk](http://www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk)

Swale Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality teacher training within a friendly and supportive environment. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate time. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals. Westlands School, the lead training school, is an outstanding school as recognised by Ofsted and has recently been awarded Teaching School status.

For preliminary enquiries please email the Staff Development Leader at [schooldirect@westlands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:schooldirect@westlands.kent.sch.uk).

Only applications made through UCAS Teacher Training, [www.ucas.com/teacher-training](http://www.ucas.com/teacher-training) will be accepted.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff are subject to an enhanced DBS check.



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732 Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

**BRADSTOW SCHOOL**

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

**DUE TO EXPANDING OUR PROVISION WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING  
RESIDENTIAL CARE VACANCIES:**

**DEPUTY HOUSE MANAGER**

To assist the House Manager in organising and managing a group of staff working in a residential team. To arrange and manage the care of the children and young adults in that team on shift. To manage the administration of the team.

To take a lead role in the absence of the House Manager  
**£23,188 - £25,727 pa - 41 hours per week, (including weekends)**  
Term time only, plus 2 weeks \*

**TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS**

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people in childcare teams mornings, evenings and weekends.

These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of Care work.  
**£14,013 - £14,880 plus 10% pa - 41 hours per week, (including weekends)**  
Term time only, plus 2 weeks \*

**CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS**

As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends.

No experience required, full training will be given.  
**£11,286 - £11,784 plus 10% pa - 36.5 hours per week,**  
(including weekends - more hours available) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks\*

**FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS**

To provide additional support a cover within either the classrooms or residences.

**Flexi-bank - £7.26 per hour - When required**  
(up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends)

\*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email [personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk).

Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 5pm, Thursday 6th November 2014



Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff

**DEPUTY THEATRE LIAISON MANAGER - MARGATE**

Full Time - Hours: 37.5 - Salary: £34K - £38K

- Registered Nurse or Operating Department Practitioner
- Five years relevant experience in Theatre
- Evidence of Continual Professional Development
- Experience of managing a team
- Sound knowledge of Clinical Governance and Risk Management
- A working knowledge of CQC regulations and requirements
- Ability to manage a Theatre department

**ENDOSCOPY MANAGER - MARGATE**

Full Time (Part Time Considered) - Hours: 37.5

Salary: £30K - £36K pa or pro rata for part-time

- Registered Nurse Part 1 or equivalent ODP qualification
- In depth knowledge of CFPP 01-06
- Knowledge of GRS/JAG Accreditation
- Two years experience in Managerial Endoscopy role
- Skilled in all endoscopy procedures and processes
- A Working knowledge of CQC regulations and requirements

**ENDOSCOPY PRACTITIONERS (RGN/ODP) - MARGATE**

Full or Part time - Hours: Various - Salary: £25,000 pa or pro rata for part time

We are looking for enthusiastic, experienced, highly motivated endoscopy staff at all levels, with a flexible approach to working. Hours will include evenings and weekends

- Registered Nurse or Operating Department Practitioner
- Relevant experience working in an Endoscopy Unit
- Knowledge of research and evidence-based practice
- Experienced in Recovery and Anaesthetics
- Skilled in scope cleaning and decontamination processes
- Able to assist in therapeutic procedures
- Data collection ICT skills
- Ability to assess, plan and evaluate patient care

To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:  
Vicky Smith, Quality Assurance, Lead Nurse on 07477 823969

**CLOSING DATE FOR ALL THE ABOVE POSITIONS - 07/11/2014**

For a job description and application form please visit [www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers](http://www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers)

Alternatively, please contact Emily Fraser, HR Assistant telephone: 01304 245951

E-mail: [recruitment@spencerhospitals.com](mailto:recruitment@spencerhospitals.com)

Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer.  
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



**Call Centre Executive**  
(12 month Maternity Cover)

**A great opportunity has arisen for a bright, hard working individual to join the MotorSport Vision team at Brands Hatch.**

Our Retail Sales Team require a Call Centre Executive to cover a twelve month maternity period commencing December. The role would include selling a range of products over the phone such as tickets for race meetings and driving experiences, as well as answering general enquiries about activities across the five MSV circuits.

The successful candidate will be educated to A-level standard or equivalent, be able to demonstrate excellent written and spoken English skills and be a good communicator with an excellent telephone manner. They will have experience within a fast paced department which deals with a large volume of admin work, requiring accuracy and good presentation at all times, be highly organised and able to demonstrate

strong Outlook, Word and Excel skills and be comfortable with data inputting and multi tasking.

Previous telesales experience and knowledge of cars, motorbikes and motorsport in general would be an advantage but is not essential. This role will include some work at weekends and evenings.

**Interested candidates should apply in writing including CV, salary expectations and notice period to:**

**Katie Dickens**  
MotorSport Vision Centre, Brands Hatch,  
Fawkham, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8NG

or email: [jobs@msv.com](mailto:jobs@msv.com)

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**Swale  
ACADEMIES  
TRUST**

**Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College,  
Meopham School, Westlands Primary School  
and Regis Manor Primary School**

**Interested in Becoming a School Governor?**

Swale Academies Trust is a multi-academy Trust comprising of 3 secondary and 2 primary schools. The Trust also supports a number of other schools. We are looking to recruit new governors with a range of skills to join our local governing bodies.

We can offer comprehensive training and support and the opportunity to work with experienced governors as part of the team and in the best interests of the Trust schools and pupils. You will bring a wide range of experience and skills to the role and be able to contribute your opinions to the discussions of the governing body. You will need time and commitment to attend approximately 6 committee meetings per year, an interest in education and a willingness to learn.

If you are interested, we would be pleased to hear from you. Let us know your reasons for wanting to become a governor, including details of the personal qualities, experience and skills you could bring to the role. Letters of application should be sent to the Trust Governance Officer, Swale Academies Trust, Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS.

*Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732  
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

**Spencer**  
PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

**Staff Nurse (Outpatients/Pre-Assessment) – Margate**

Part time Hours: 22.5 per week Closing date: 07/11/2014

Salary: Dependent on qualifications and experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level or Dual Trained Registered Nurse
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager on 07925 978812

For a job description and application form please visit  
[www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers](http://www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers)

Alternatively, please contact Emily Fraser, HR Assistant

Telephone: 01304 245951

E-mail: [recruitment@spencerhospitals.com](mailto:recruitment@spencerhospitals.com)

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.

This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



EMLC:



**Assessors**

**Required (Freelance)**

EMLC is a national leadership charity with a large national contract to assess Middle and Senior leaders and Aspiring Head teachers in schools and academies across England.

We are looking to increase our pool of freelance assessors who can assess the Middle and Senior leader qualification; you will need experience in assessing evidence against criteria.

If you are interested in the Aspiring Head Teachers qualification you will need to be a serving Head Teacher or have Headship experience.

This role is home based.

There are 6-8 assessment windows across the year and you would be required to undertake a minimum of 15 assessments in each window.

For further details and an application pack and role specification please contact Rhian Thomas at [rhian.thomas@emlc.co.uk](mailto:rhian.thomas@emlc.co.uk).

The closing date for applications is Friday 14th November 2014.

Please visit our website for further information about us: [www.emlc.co.uk](http://www.emlc.co.uk)

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**DMS is a leading mortgage arrears visit company in the UK, undertaking visits for a large proportion of the finance industry.**

Due to our continued success, we are now looking to recruit additional self-employed Mortgage Arrears Field Agents. Whilst this is not a sales position, successful applicants will be very professional and ideally from a financial services background. This type of work will involve meeting with Customers at their homes and working out sustainable arrears repayment solutions on their behalf.

**Full training will be given and we would ask that you contact Alison Bushell on 01635 517013 or apply online at [www.dmsarrearsolutions.co.uk](http://www.dmsarrearsolutions.co.uk).**

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## PLANNING



### THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

**Y14/1128/SH** - Ship Inn 65 Sandgate High Street and Parade Cottage Granville Parade Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Listed Building Consent for the alteration of existing staircase to 1st floor; erection of new stud partition walls to ground floor to form store; blocking of existing and creation of new openings to ground and 1st floor.

**Y14/1182/SH** - Land adjoining Bramble Hill Radnor Cliff Crescent Folkestone Kent - Rolling consent on a 3 yearly basis for a maximum period of nine years to crown reduce and crown thin three Holm Oaks subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 7 of 2002.

**Y14/1183/SH** - Tynwald Lodge Cottage Church Road Hythe Kent CT21 5DP - Felling of a Bay tree situated within a conservation area.

**Y14/0815/SH** - Land adjoining Framlea Rye Road Brookland Kent - Erection of two pairs of semi-detached houses and one detached house, together with the creation of associated vehicular accesses and parking.

**Y14/1202/SH** - Pier Head Lighthouse Folkestone Harbour Harbour Approach Road Folkestone Kent - Listed Building Consent for the reinstatement of door and windows; repointing; erection of railings and lights.

**Y14/1205/SH** - Ashurst The Street Lympne Hythe Kent - Felling of an Ash tree situated within a conservation area.

**Y14/0984/SH** - 13 & 14 Mabledon Close New Romney Kent TN28 8HT - Various pruning works to two Holm Oak trees subject of Tree Preservation Order No 14 of 1995.

**Y14/1200/SH** - The Dukes Head 9 Dymchurch Road Hythe Kent CT21 6JB - Listed Building Consent for works in connection with conversion to 3 dwellings to include demolition of existing and erection of new internal walls, installation of 2 new staircases, replacement of existing window with door to east (side) elevation, new openings to south (rear) elevation and works in connection with the conversion of the curtilage listed barn to a single dwelling.

**Y14/1191/SH** - Church House School Lane Newington Folkestone Kent - Erection of a rear conservatory.

**Y14/1082/SH** - Two Bells Inn 58 Canterbury Road Folkestone Kent CT19 5NJ - Erection of a three storey block of 12 flats, following demolition of existing building.

**Y14/1009/SH** - Mill House Canterbury Road Lymping Folkestone Kent - Change of use of the land for the keeping of horses and area for use as a vegetable plot together with the erection of a stable block with access road.

**Y14/1121/SH** - The Grange Dennes Lane Lydd Romney Marsh Kent - Change of use of workshop/garage to a holiday let including external alterations (resubmission of planning application Y14/0460/SH).

Representations can be made in writing either on line on the Council's website, by email to [planning@shepway.gov.uk](mailto:planning@shepway.gov.uk) or in writing to the Head of Planning and Environmental Health, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY. Please always quote the application reference number. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. Please note that any representations received will be publically viewable on the Council's website.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

The applications marked (\*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

C Lewis, Head of Planning and Environmental Health  
Shepway District Council

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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

##### NOTICE OF THE CONFIRMATION OF A DIRECTION TO CANCEL A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 5 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a Direction under article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is to cancel a Direction which came into force on the 4 February 2014 which withdrew the permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 in respect of the development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 9am and 1.30 pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made by the Authority on the 20 May 2014 in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice and was confirmed and came into force on **18 September 2014**.

##### FIRST SCHEDULE

**The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995**  
**SCHEDULE 2 PART 5 – CARAVAN SITES**

Class A - The use of the land, other than a building, as a caravan site in the circumstances referred to in paragraph A.2.

##### SCHEDULE 2 PART 6 – AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

Class A – Development on units of 5 hectares or more

- (a) Works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building; or
- (b) any excavation or engineering operations which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within that unit.

##### Class B

Development on units of less than 5 hectares

- (a) the extension or alteration of an agricultural building;
- (b) the installation of additional or replacement plant or machinery;
- (c) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a sewer, main, pipe, cable or other apparatus;
- (d) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a private way;
- (e) the provision of a hard surface;
- (f) the deposit of waste; or
- (g) the carrying out of any of the following operations in connection with fish farming, namely, repairing ponds and raceways; the installation of grading machinery, serratation equipment or flow meters and any associated channel; the dredging of ponds; and the replacement of tanks and nets, where the development is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within the unit.

##### SCHEDULE 2 PART 7 – FORESTRY BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

##### Class A

The carrying out on land used for the purposes of forestry, including afforestation, of development reasonably necessary for those purposes consisting of :-

- (a) works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building;
- (b) the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways;
- (c) operations on that land, or on land held or occupied with that land, to obtain the materials required for the formation, alteration or maintenance of such ways;
- (d) other operations (not including engineering or mining operations).

##### SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 47 hectares at Burrswood (also known as Green River Farm), Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

John Scarborough  
Head of Legal Partnership & Monitoring Officer  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated : 27 October 2014



## PUBLIC NOTICE

AON Investments Ltd of Courtstairs Manor, Pegwell Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 0JE has applied to Thanet District Council, P.O. Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent for the Grant of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003. A copy of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at the Thanet District Council offices, address above. The licensable activities will be Plays, Films and Late Night Refreshment 08:00 to 02:30; Live Music 08:00 to 01:00; Recorded Music, Performance of Dance and Supply of Alcohol 08:00 to 02:00 every day. Any representations in respect of the application should be made in writing to the Licensing Department, Thanet District Council, P.O. Box 9 Cecil Street, Margate, Kent by the 24th November 2014. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

##### NOTICE OF THE CONFIRMATION OF A DIRECTION CANCELLING A DIRECTION MADE UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 6 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a Direction under article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to which article 6 applies ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is to cancel the Direction that withdrew permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 for development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 9am and 1.30pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made by the Authority on **20 May 2014** and came into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the 24 May 2014. The Direction was confirmed on **18 September 2014** and remains in force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

##### FIRST SCHEDULE

**The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995**

##### SCHEDULE 2 PART 2 - MINOR OPERATIONS

##### Class A

The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure.

##### Class B

The formation, laying out and construction of a means of access to a highway which is not a trunk road or a classified road, where that access is required in connection with permitted development, being development comprised within Class B of Part 2 of Schedule 2.

##### SCHEDULE 2 PART 4 - TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND USES

##### Class B

The use of the land for any purpose for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year, of which not more than 14 days in total may be for the purposes referred to in paragraph B.2, and the provision on the land of any movable structure for the purpose of the permitted use.

##### SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 47 hectares at Burrswood (also known as Green River Farm), Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

John Scarborough  
Head of Legal Partnership & Monitoring Officer  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated: 27 October 2014



## PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

**Application for New Premises Licence**  
Notice is hereby given that Rowlins Cardoza has applied to the Ashford Borough Council, on 23rd October 2014 for GRANT OF A NEW PREMISES LICENCE to permit the following licensable activities

The sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises

In respect of the premises situated at 34, High Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8TE and to be known by the sign of Premier Cellar. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m – Monday to Friday except public holidays) 01233 330271 by appointment (website address [www.ashford.gov.uk](http://www.ashford.gov.uk))

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above giving in detail the grounds of the above : Licensing Team, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL giving in detail the grounds of objection by **20th November 2014 (28 days the day after the application is received by the licensing department)**

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four : Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

**Stephen Thomas LAW, Solicitors for the Applicant, 8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP**

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# Derby clash the highlight as our clubs seek FA Cup dream

Next weekend seeks a clutch of Kent teams battle it out in the first round proper

NOT much divides the bustling towns of Bromley and Dartford.

Jump on the A22 and, depending on the traffic, you can make the 10 mile journey from one to another in around 30 minutes, crossing the divide between Kent and the London boroughs as you do so.

But next Saturday, that thin dividing line will play host to triumph or despair after the FA Cup first round draw pitted the two towns against one another in a scrap which guarantees one of them a place in the second round and just 90 minutes from joining the likes of Manchester United and Arsenal in the third round.

Bill Archer, one of the co-chairmen of Conference side Dartford, says the club is delighted at the draw, despite not pulling a league team.

He explained: "Playing a local derby like this is better than playing someone like Hartlepool.

"Being local, both sets of fans have a chance to watch the game because it is within easy travelling distance.

"So it should be a good crowd and a really good atmosphere.

"We are going to Bromley, but if there is a draw, the replay the following week will be here in Dartford.

"That would be good for business too – it would essentially double the money taken at the gate. We don't aim to do that, though. You don't take that chance – you play every game to win it."

Both clubs picked up a further £12,500 for success last weekend in their fourth qualifying games – the Darts beating Burgess Hill Town 3-1 at home, while the Ravens got a 2-1 win away at Evesham United.

A further £18,000 awaits the winner of next week's clash – although the real financial benefit are the big crowds, the boost in publicity and the promise of what could be if they were to progress.

Adds Bill Archer: "The Bromley ca-



**DREAMS:** All non-league clubs dream of a money-spinning run in the cup

capacity is decent enough so I would think it could be fairly full on match day.

"I would imagine there will be at least a couple of thousand there, which is good.

"It will be more than our normal gate. We normally get for a league match somewhere around 1,300, but we reached 2,500 when we played Luton last year. Hopefully this cup game will whip up interest and a big crowd."

The match at Hayes Lane on November 8 will certainly carry plenty of baggage.

It was almost exactly three years ago that the two teams clashed in the fourth qualifying round – where a goal in either half saw Bromley go to Princes Park and flee with a victory which rewarded them with a draw against league side Leyton Orient in their back pocket.

Dartford, now the more senior of the two non-league teams, will be desperate to ensure that does not hap-

pen again.

Bromley are currently vying for promotion in Conference South – going into this weekend sitting in fifth place. The Darts are the next level up but struggling a little this season – sat 21st in the Conference.

The Ravens are not without ambition though.

Ashley Reading took over at Bromley as chairman just months ago, but aims to take the club to the hallowed land of the Football League within five years.

The investment company boss said: "Winning this FA Cup game would be brilliant.

"It would be huge to us. We have been in the first round of the FA Cup five times in the last eight years.

"These games, along with those in the FA Trophy, are major money spinners for us.

"We have a capacity of about 5,000 and we think we will be full.

"We are aiming to get a sell-out.

"We really hope we just get the job done on the night and go into the next round.

"In our entire history of over 100 years, we have only done that twice, so this is a really big deal for us.

"It is great for the players, fans and community to do well.

"We are fifth in our league and we need to win that to go up this season. I want to take this club into the main leagues within five years.

"In every way we are a professional club. I have lived in Bromley all my life, and football is my passion."

Elsewhere, Maidstone United delighted a sell-out crowd at the Gallagher Stadium with a convincing 2-1 win over pre-match favourites Welling United to set up a first round draw away against League Two Stevenage.

The Stones wrapped up a successful week by then defeating Bromley in the Kent Senior Cup.

In what is likely to be one of the strongest showings by Kent sides in the first round, Dover belatedly muscled their way to a home tie against Morecambe in the first round after beating Eastbourne 1-0 in their fourth qualifying round replay on Wednesday night.

It makes back-to-back first round ties for the Whites after reaching the same stage last year.

Gillingham fans will still shudder at the memory of Dover's famous win at Priestfield against a lack-lustre Gills side in 2010.

The Gills, meanwhile, enter the competition with a tough home tie against League One league leaders Bristol City. City are so far unbeaten this year.

All games are scheduled to kick off at 3pm next Saturday, November 8.

To ensure your attendance, it is recommended to book in advance where possible.

## Sport Shorts

### Billings and Riley in Lions squad call-up

SAM Billings and Adam Riley have both been named in the provisional England Lions squads to tour South Africa early next year.

The rising stars, both graduates of the Kent Cricket Academy, form part of two separate squads – one for one-day games, the other for four – on a trip which includes two four-day games and five 50-overs matches against South Africa A. Billings is in both squads, while Riley is named in the four-day squad.

Selector James Whitaker said: "The squad is an excellent mix of experience and fresh young talent."

### Surtees scoops top award for his book

MOTORSPORT legend John Surtees has got yet another major title to add to his trophy cabinet.

His book, *My Incredible Life on Two and Four Wheels*, has won the first Royal Automobile Club Motoring Book of the Year award.

He collected his prize at a ceremony in London on Wednesday night.

Club chairman Tom Purves said: "It is a fascinating story, entertaining and personable, with wonderful pictures, and comes from a new publisher who demonstrates great faith in the printed word."

### Gills bid farewell to club fitness coach

GILLINGHAM fitness coach James Russell left Priestfield this week as club manager Peter Taylor looks to get more involved in that side of match preparation.

Russell has spent the last two years at the League One side and Taylor was quick to stress he had always been an important member of the backroom team.

Taylor said: "I'd like to thank James for his efforts but we have decided to go down a different route and re-assess our fitness and sports science structure at the football club."

### Historic wheelchair rugby game today

STARS of the Great Britain wheelchair rugby team will make history in Canterbury today (Sunday) when the sport's first ever game is played in the city.

The landmark event takes place at the Canterbury High academy complex. It marks the success of a Canterbury Rugby Club community initiative to establish the sport in the city which was launched less than a year ago.

GB star Steve Brown, who captained the side in the 2012 Paralympics, will be one of those staging an exhibition against XV able-bodied players.

## Geraint Jones signs as Gloucestershire captain



FORMER Kent and England wicketkeeper Geraint Jones confirmed this week he had signed a two-year contract for rival County Championship side Gloucestershire – just weeks after it was confirmed he was leaving Canterbury.

And the 38-year-old will go straight in at the top as club skipper in Championship games.

He is no stranger to the Division 2 side, which finished one place below Kent this season, having gone to the club for a successful loan spell during the summer.

He impressed after being called in as cover for Gloucestershire's two injured wicketkeepers.

It followed losing his place in the Kent team to the emerging talent of young Sam Billings.

It led to the decision to quit the club he had spent 15 seasons with at the end of the summer.

Gloucestershire director of cricket, John Bracewell, said: "With our skipper Michael Klinger not re-joining us until June next year, Geraint will captain the team in four-day cricket for the 2015 season. We have spoken to Michael about that and he is comfortable with it.

"We intend using Geraint as a batsman and his presence on the field will be invaluable in offering advice and assistance to our young bowling attack."

Jones added: "I had a fantastic time at Kent and I learnt a huge amount there. Without the opportunities they gave me I never would have had the career that I have.

"But following an enjoyable month on loan with Gloucestershire during 2014, I am excited to be joining the club on a full-time basis and for the challenges that lie ahead."

Jones will be best known as Kent's only representative in the historic 2005 Ashes winning team.

Hailed the greatest cricket series ever, it saw England finally regain the Ashes from Australia for the first time since 1987.

Jones played an important role – taking a vital catch to win the second Test at Edgbaston. However, after being dropped he was recalled for the 5-0 drubbing in Australia.

In total, he played in 34 Test Matches and 49 One-Day Internationals, and more recently for his native Papua New Guinea.

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